

The SWORD of the LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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United States 1 year \$2.50; 3 years \$5.00
Canada and foreign 1 year \$3.00; 3 years \$6.50

3rd Annual \$1,000 Sermon Contest

First prize, \$250;
Second, third, fourth
prizes, \$100 each;
Nine other prizes of \$50
each;

Sermons due at Sword
office December 1. Must
be original, unpublished,
typewritten.

Sword of the Lord,
Wheaton, Illinois

One of the First Prize Winners in \$1,600 "Sermons on Vital Public Issues" Contest

False Prophets— REAL or IMAGINARY?

by Dr. Robert J. Wells

Box 285, Wheaton, Illinois



A Prayer for Patience

By the Late Dr. George W. Truett

"The Lord direct your hearts . . . into the patience of Christ."—II Thessalonians 3:5.

Our text this hour calls us to think together on one of Paul's most impressive prayers: "The Lord direct your hearts . . . into the patience of Christ." You will note that I am quoting from the Revised Version, in this sentence, which brings out the meaning of the text more clearly and accurately than does the old version.

If ever there was a timely prayer for us all and each, surely it is this prayer that Paul prays: "The Lord direct your hearts into the patience of Christ." The call to patience is everywhere magnified in the Bible. Again and again, its writers summon us to patience, to patient continuance in well doing. The Apostle James thus calls us: "Take, my brethren, the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction and of patience. Behold, we count them happy who endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy." And thus does Jesus admonish us: "In your patience, ye shall win your souls."

Every step of the earthly life needs to be fortified with patience. It is one virtue needed by everybody, always and everywhere. The child in school constantly needs this virtue of patience, or he or she will not properly learn. The boy on the playground needs it, or his play may easily be turned into a curse. The mother in the home needs it, every hour, with her never-ceasing duties toward her growing children. The father constantly

needs it, as he fares forth to grapple with the duties and burdens of his daily work and warfare. The worker in every realm is in constant need of patience. The preacher surely needs this virtue in a large degree, or he will be tempted

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Dr. Robert J. Wells

"Almost Persuaded"

By Evangelist John R. Rice, D.D.

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."—Acts 26:28.

"Paul! Paul! You have gone crazy! Education has gone to your head. You are losing your mind!" So King Agrippa shouted to Paul. The king breathed hard and nervously plucked his royal robes around him. He had leaned forward in his throne-chair listening to that rather ragged dominating prisoner who stood there, a few steps below his dais, Paul the prisoner, the preacher. What a pity that a man with such culture, "a Roman citizen, too, they say!" should have those chains on his wrists. But the fire in his eyes seemed to burn through Agrippa. A glance at his side showed that Queen Bernice was as absorbed as he, and Agrippa wondered, Did she feel so convicted and guilty as he did?

It was certainly a strange scene. When Festus, the governor, had told them about Paul, King Agrippa thought it would be an interesting thing to hear the man's plea. This man of learning and obviously good morals ought to be set free, perhaps. But King Agrippa was unprepared for the direct assault Paul made upon his own heart. Paul preached to him about One, Jesus, and His death and resurrection, and about the need for repentance and to be a Christian! And then Paul said to him, "I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest." Then comes the text in this thrilling twenty-

sixth chapter of Acts: "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

And there the convicted Agrippa speaks for uncounted multitudes who live, knowing they ought to be saved, intending some day to be saved, but still rejecting God's mercy, still refusing God's Son, still unrepentant and unsaved!

I. Many, Like King Agrippa, Are "Almost Persuaded" to Be Saved

The American Standard Version gives Acts 26:28 as "And Agrippa said unto Paul, with but little persuasion thou wouldest fain make me a Christian." But do not be disturbed by this slight change in the translation, because it is still clearly true that Agrippa was, in

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"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereto: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."—Matt. 7:13-23.

There are only two roads along which men may travel in this life! The broad way which leadeth to destruction and the narrow way which leadeth to everlasting life. This is the dogmatic assertion of Jesus Christ, the True Prophet of God, which is accompanied by one of the most urgent admonitions to be found in all the Bible, "Enter ye in at the strait gate.... Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Realizing that the principle thus stated would become the battleground upon which the most terrific controversy of the ages would rage down through the tempestuous centuries of the future, and in order to give guidance and

direction to His faithful followers who would be called upon to fight the battles of orthodoxy and defend this principle against unbelievable and superhuman odds, this same Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets." Thus it is that the subject of false prophets or false teachers is first introduced in the New Testament by none other than Jesus Christ.

This tremendously important word of warning is seen to be all the more significant in the light of the illustration which follows showing the horrible end of those who, having followed false leadership and false teaching, seek to enter into the kingdom of Heaven

(Continued on page 7)

SOON TOO LATE!

It will soon be too late to get the prize sermons for your friends, as published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Last week we began publication of the great series of sermons on vital public issues with a grand prize sermon on worldliness—"The Twentieth Century Issue Facing Twentieth Century Christians," by Evangelist Robert L. Sumner. In this issue you will find a strong scriptural sermon, "False Prophets—Real or Imaginary," by Dr. Robert J. Wells. It really is strong. It really is scriptural. It is factual, it is needful. It has a tremendous truth and a tremendous punch. You should read it and see that others read it.

Next week you will see in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, God willing, a striking sermon, "The Big Lie," a message on communism, by Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of

Wheaton College. It is very unusual, very greatly needed. Don't miss it.

BUT! some are already missing these sermons, some to whom you should send them. We cannot continue to send back numbers. Probably before September 30 the back numbers of these first sermons will be gone. SO WHAT YOU DO TO GET THESE SERMONS TO OTHERS MUST BE DONE AT ONCE!

You may send these wonderful sermons in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, with other great sermons, reports of revivals, answers to Bible questions—all for only \$1 per six month's subscription. But you must send five or more subscriptions together to get this rate (for

(Continued on page 3)



Dr. George W. Truett

METHODIST MINISTER ANSWERS FERRE

Modernist's Book, "The Sun and the Umbrella" Examined

A good Methodist brother in Charlottesville, Virginia, William A. Revis, has sent us a short resume of Nels F. S. Ferre's latest book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*, which he wrote after thoroughly examining the book.

The quotations which he reproduces show so clearly that Ferre is an open, avowed enemy of our "like precious faith" and that he is on record as being out to fight and "slay," if possible, the historic Christian position, we thought our readers would be interested. In a personal letter to the editor, Brother Revis writes:

"Dear Bro. Rice;

"It grieves me greatly to read in your paper that Nels Ferre is to speak in Meredith College, another Southern Baptist institution. I can only think that churchmen have so treated God's Word that they no longer respect it. They do not know what it teaches. I read Ferre's *Sun and the Umbrella* rather thoroughly and wrote a short resume. I enclose it for your perusal. I think he has gone completely out of the way. He is not a communist. Of Christian truth he is a subversive and far more dangerous to the church.

"Sincerely."

(Signed) W. A. Revis
"P.S. I am a Methodist retired."

The review, written by Brother Revis, is as follows:

The Sun and the Umbrella —Ferre

Purpose of Book. "The Christian Church has no significant future till it puts away traditionalistic orthodoxy . . ." (p. 87). This kind of theology "has to be challenged, fought and slain" (p. 79). He asks how we can do this without becoming a new denomination. "We must work out a new theology with creative and critical care" (p. 154).

The kind of theology Ferre recommends is the antithesis of that of the historic creeds, as will be seen. Would it not be more honorable to form a new denomination, and write another Bible?

The Person of Christ. "He is at best a vague figure," and has been mythologized (p. 115). "Jesus never was nor became God" (p. 112). He was not pre-existent, Ferre says. "Such is the nature of the grand myth which at its heart is idolatry" (p. 83).

Ferre says Jesus could not have been human without being also sinful, as we are. As an evolutionist, he could not accept Genesis, which states that man was made in the image of God, and was not originally sinful. "Human" and "sinful" are not synonymous. Here Ferre is still "up a tree."

"A view of Jesus as sinless needs a biological Virgin Birth to bolster the miracle" (p. 29). The Bible states a fact which Ferre does not believe. In another book he suggests a solution of the Birth which is not fit to print.

"Theology has fitted Jesus into

the Jewish sacrificial system" (p. 31). In other words, the sacrifice on Calvary has nothing to do with forgiveness of sins, nor of cleansing.

Mystery religions' got sucked into the resurrection story (p. 32). "It seems appropriate that he (Jesus) . . . was allowed to return to earthly life . . . to encourage his followers . . . But we know neither that this event actually happened nor exactly what took place" (pp. 115, 116).

As to the Second Coming, "It seems doubtful Jesus ever taught such a doctrine" (p. 33).

The Bible, "The use of the Bible as the final authority for Christian truth is idolatry" (p. 39). The Methodist Church teaches that the Scriptures contain all truth required for eternal salvation, and that nothing which cannot be proven thereby shall be believed as necessary thereto. Each elder before ordination is required to promise to so teach.

Formerly a proof of the inspiration of Scripture, prediction and its fulfillment, Ferre says, are "the strongest evidence against the reliability of the New Testament . . ." (p. 41). He mentions Micah 5:2, and that in order for this Scripture to be literally fulfilled, Mary was taken all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem for her child to be born there. So, angels, shepherds, wise men, and even Ceasar Augustus, all were made parties, Ferre thinks to the frame-up. He then adds, "It seems entirely likely that Jesus was born in Nazareth" (p. 41).

Dr. Ferre says the writings of the New Testament differ so much that it is impossible to tell what is fact and what is fiction (p. 26). Even Jesus "may have been misled . . . by the use of Scripture" (p. 40).

The Incarnation, according to *The Sun and the Umbrella* is not what Christians have understood as the Christmas story. "In him" (a human being and no more) "God who is Love thrust Himself radically into and athwart human history" (p. 26). Jesus is unique among men in that he understood "the centrality for faith and life of God as Love" (p. 26). And in the same breath Ferre doubts that Jesus did completely "teach and live God's love." The same kind of Incarnation God "intends to fulfill in all human beings" (p. 112). In this sense Jesus is our "Lord and Leader" (but not Saviour), (p. 78).

The Evangel, we are taught by Ferre, is "the endless and ultimately victorious love" for all men, (p. 23). This is *Agape*, a Greek word for love. Its illustration is the story of the prodigal son, which with the stories of the lost coin and the lost sheep seem to illustrate the joy of each finder, reflecting the joy shared in Heaven also. The father did love his son.

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"Theology has fitted Jesus into

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

But Ferre means that there was no need for Jesus to die for our sins, no law, no judgment, no final separation of the wicked. God waives everything and just forgives. All will be saved. John 3:16 is outmoded. Millions have believed it, wrought mightily, died victoriously. The great saints, evangelists, preachers, missionaries, martyrs, all were wrong: Ferre, right!

"Evangelism today must be directed largely to Christians" (p. 78). "May the Gospel's joyful sound, conquer sinners, comfort saints," is now to be sung: "comfort sinners, conquer saints."

With this kind of Gospel of universal love, Jews and Christians can come together, Judaism being cleared of guilt in rejecting Jesus, and even justified in doing so, since He was guilty of blasphemy in making Himself equal with God, Ferre says. Judaism can retain its identity and become "the Jewish Church of the Living God" (p. 116).

There can also be "the Hindu branch of the Church of the living God" (p. 122). "Hinduism is good and wise" (p. 117). "What a spiritual people this religion has produced" (p. 119). In another part of the book referring to the matter of civil cases, such as divorce, being settled in the church, he uses a simile: "In India the caste system could deal effectively with problems of discipline" (p. 96). It does so effectively, and countless Indian women have jumped into wells rather than face it. Does he know what he is writing about?

For communists Ferre has an approach. "They are too sharply aware of the imperfect parts of the Bible and too honest with the truth" (p. 129). (That's a new one!) "Myth, dogma, and emotion . . . are dead end streets for these people" (p. 130). "We shall witness to the Communists because whatever truth is theirs we accept wholeheartedly, and beyond their truth lies God's truth" (p. 156).

Ferre says we must speak the truth in love (p. 117). But how can a person speak that which is false, and know anything of that *Agape*, divine love, the kind of love Jesus asked of Peter, when he said, "Lovest thou me?" "He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his son" (I John 5:10).

Nels F. S. Ferre, professor of Philosophical Theology, Vanderbilt University, was a speaker along with Bishop Oxnam and E. Stanley Jones, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at a Conference of World Evangelism in the spring of 1953. He has been much in demand as a speaker in church gatherings, and for young people's meetings. In the June 3, 1954, issue of *The Christian Advocate*, Chicago, Illinois, Ferre had a whole page, advertising books suggested for Protestant Lenten Reading, including his own *The Sun and the Umbrella*. On the same page was the statement: "This list is both devotional and instructive on the Lenten theme. Some books deal with the faith itself; others with its application."

This book is recommended by Bishop Kennedy of The Methodist Church and several other clergymen.

His sermon: "What the Holy Spirit Can Do for the Methodist Church" appears in *The Christian Advocate*, Chicago, June 3, 1954, issue and in *Virginia Advocate*, July, 1953.

Now A Note from the Editor

Our sincere thanks to this good Methodist minister who has reviewed honestly the infidel teaching of Ferre in one book. Now will Methodists, Bible-believing preachers and the laymen who finance the work, put up with this infidel in Methodist circles? Will Southern Baptists, who had him in Southern Baptist Seminary, who last June had him in Meredith College, pay schools who have him to break down faith in Christ and the Bible? Who wants to support the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program if it includes Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre? I, for one, will not!

Please send a label when you change your Address!



Third Annual \$1,000 Evangelistic Sermon Contest

The Sword of the Lord for the Third Time Offers \$1,000 for 13 Best Sermons to the Unsaved, \$250 for First Sermon, Contest Closing December 1, 1954

In 1952 and 1953 THE SWORD OF THE LORD had Evangelistic Sermon Contests with blessed results. Some of the greatest preachers in America and in several foreign countries entered the contest. What a treat and what a blessing these sermons have been!

More great sermons by soul-winning preachers of the past and the present are published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD than in any other half-dozen Christian magazines that we know of. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is the one great preaching magazine as well as having the greatest evangelistic emphasis and having something for the whole Christian family. Now we announce the third \$1,000 Evangelistic Sermon Contest. The contest closes December 1, 1954, and all manuscripts must be received by that time.

The following prizes are offered:

First prize sermon, \$250.

Second, third, and fourth prize sermons, \$100 each.

For the nine next best sermons, \$50 each.

Rules for the Sermon Contest

1. Sermons must be original, unpublished, offered for publication in THE SWORD.

2. Author to give proper credit for quotations, must make quotations accurate, secure any permission necessary.

3. Sermons to be principally addressed to the unsaved, calculated to bring about conviction of sin, repentance, saving faith in Christ, public profession of faith, or to overcome difficulties or excuses in regard to acceptance of Christ as Saviour. For example, a sermon on liquor might be an evangelistic sermon if it were calculated to convict of sin, to bring sinners to repentance, and to show what Christ can do in saving and delivering the drunkard. Sermons in the contest are not restricted simply to the plan of salvation. They may deal with any scriptural subject "calculated to bring about conviction of sin, repentance, saving faith," etc.

4. Sermons may be expository sermons on a longer passage of Scripture, or sermons expounding a single Bible verse, or topical sermons, providing the points are all proved by Scripture, and that the sermons are honest expositions of Bible truth, explained, emphasized and illustrated, addressed primarily to the unsaved. Spiritual power and usefulness will weigh more than literary style.

5. Sermons should be approximately 3,000 to 5,000 words, though no strict limit on length is intended.

6. Sermons to be typewritten (not carbon copies), double-spaced, on one side of paper only, regular typewriter size paper, with each margin one inch wide or more, name and address of author on first page, accompanied by letter telling author's work (pastor, evangelist, missionary, etc.), age, church and denomination, other writings published, etc.

7. Contest to close December 1, 1954. Awards to be announced by February 1, 1955. D.V. Judges will be announced later.

8. We will offer to publish in THE SWORD OF THE LORD and pay for other sermons besides prize-winning sermons, if their quality justifies. Authors may submit more than one sermon if desired.

9. All manuscripts submitted become the property of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, except that author may retain book rights.

10. Those who entered last year's contest, whether prize winners or not, are invited to enter again this year.

11. Manuscripts to be mailed to Evangelistic Sermon Contest, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois.

Buy Doug Winn's Books -- Get Subscription Free

Evangelist Douglas Winn has two clothbound books. One is *Elijah's God*, which has six sermons, 132 pages, price is \$1.50. The other book is *Rebuilding Revival Gates*. This has six sermons, 124 pages, price is \$1.50.

Evangelist Winn writes us, "In every way I wish to help enlarge your circulation. Both of my clothbound books sell for \$1.50 each. If it will help you, I will be glad to give a year's subscription to THE SWORD to the first 1,500 who will order both copies of my book."

So, you may send \$3, for both of these clothbound books, to Evangelist Douglas Winn, 911 Myrtle Road, Martinsville, Virginia, and he will send one year's subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD to you, or to anyone you choose.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Every product and service advertised in THE SWORD OF THE LORD is investigated and approved.

"You May Buy With Confidence From Our Advertisers"

Desperate Need for FREE LITERATURE

Korea: "Could You Undertake a New Edition, Dr. Rice, of Two Hundred Thousand?" (A Korean Edition of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" He Means. Also Pamphlets on "Hell" and "The Soul-Winner's Fire" Are Translated and Waiting to Be Printed.)

India: "Except For a Few Thousand in Hindi, We Are Completely Out of 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'" (Large Editions Have Been Printed in Marathi, Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Kanarese Languages in India.)

The Belgian Congo.

Africa: "We Have Just Finished Translating Into Bangala Your Pamphlet on 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' ... We Could Use a Printing of 25,000 Immediately."

By Editor John R. Rice

Because of emphasis on the Building Fund and other matters, gifts have fallen off to a mere trickle for the Sword Free Literature Fund. Now groups of missionaries around the world are waiting and pleading with us to supply again great quantities of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in the languages of people where they labor. We want to share some of these pleas with you.

William R. Garfield Missionary in Korea, Pleads for 200,000 of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

Readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD know that we have furnished money and encouragement for the printing of two and a half million copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Japan. There our first inter-mission committee was founded, among missionaries of the principal denominations who are sound on the plan of salvation. Missionary Fred Jarvis of the Evangelical Alliance Mission, and Youth for Christ, led in the forming of the Word of Life Press. Later Missionary Jarvis went to Korea, and with the help of other missions, formed the Word of Life Press in Korea. Now Missionary William R. Garfield heads that work, and acts as agent for the Sword of the Lord in Korea. Here is a letter dated May 4, months ago, from Korea. We print it, though we have not yet been permitted to send the money requested.

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"Greetings again, in the Lord Jesus, from Seoul, Korea. These are great days of opportunity and much is happening. But, the much is little compared to what the possibilities demand.

"But, first of all let me thank you for printing that picture of my co-worker, Mr. Lee, and me looking at the newly translated Korean manuscript of Strombeck's SO GREAT SALVATION. You helped us to make known the great need of evangelical literature in this country, and that Word of Life Press is doing something about meeting this need. So again, my thanks. For people there in America must know that there are thousands of hungry hearts in this little war-torn country. They must know that now is a golden opportunity to reach them. They must know that there are few good books which the Korean Christians can feed on. And, oh that they could see the scarcity of truly Christ-honoring books aimed for the unsaved! With the hearts of multitudes open at the cost of so much suffering and hardship, as yet we have failed to pour in the Water of Life. So thank you, for helping to make this opportunity being lost known.

"May I add a picture of Korea, postwar. Rebuilding has begun. Crude clapboard houses are beginning to appear in most every area of rubble that used to be parts of cities. Old women are frequently seen sitting among the fallen bricks chipping away the mortar. In the hearts of so many people like such women a living tragedy sears on. A husband, a child, a family unheard of for years in North Korea. And so little hope of seeing them again. Thus, a terribly frequent experience in this country today is a life

injury. Will you help us in this matter? We ought to have at least \$2,000 to send to poor, desolate Korea. And it ought to be done soon. I beg you in Jesus' name to pray about the matter and see what God wants you to do.

Many Saved in India Through Sword Booklets Sent Free

We were glad to co-operate with the fine committee of missionaries in India, Youth for Christ missionaries, Conservative Baptists, Evangelical Alliance missionaries, American Baptist missionaries, Christian and Missionary Alliance workers and others joined in a plan to get our Christian literature very widely.

Using various Bible-believing missionaries, and particularly trusting Missionary Joe Weatherly of Youth for Christ in Bombay, we have furnished money for large editions of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in the following languages: Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Kanarese, Urdu, Hindi, and, I believe, one other language.

Now we have a letter from Missionary Joe Weatherly, written July 21, as follows:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mrs. Geoffrey and also I am sending her letter, in which she lists a number of people who have responded to the ministry of your tract.

"I know you will rejoice in this, and will continue to pray with us that God might use the material in a mighty way. Except for a few thousand in Hindi, we are completely out of 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'

"May the Lord bless you richly.

"Yours in His service,"

(signed) Joe Weatherly.

He encloses for us a letter which is really a solemn confession of faith in Christ, copied from the little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" And this letter is signed by Mrs. Gracebair Geoffrey, Dr. Goeffrey, who we suppose is her husband, and 45 other Hindus!

The decision they signed says:

"Realizing that I am a sinner, and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour, and gladly mail this to let you know."

Then she adds, "Indian postal orders are not available in this branch post office so I am sending money, one rupee, by register. Please kindly help me with some tracts. Thank you."

Mrs. Gracebair Geoffrey, Durgi, Dist. Guntur, South India.

Brother Weatherly says that he will enroll these forty-seven professed converts in a correspondence course of instruction in the Bible.

This is only a small taste of the great flood of responses which have come through our literature in India. How we praise God for precious souls saved in that far-off, crowded India!

But the Great Stock of Booklets Are All Gone! Thousands of Dollars Are Needed for New Printings Now

Did you note in Missionary Joe Weatherly's letter that he said, "Except for a few thousand in Hindi, we are completely out of 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'"

Brother Weatherly's missionary literature committee, with the help of missionaries of several denominations and with many national Christians, is eagerly waiting to use the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in several languages. But only a few thousand copies of the many hundreds of thousands printed remain, in one language only! What will we do about it?

I feel that God wants us to carry on this great soul-saving work. The present government in India is not allowing new missionaries to come in, except for educational institutions, I understand. Often missionaries already there and established in the work are refused admission, if they come home on furlough and wish to return. But the workers already there could double their efficiency, and win twice as many souls, I believe, if we could furnish them

Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



Modern education is producing young people; but the only permanent good is the result of regenerating grace in the hearts of people. We are asking you Christian people who are interested in the type of work Bob Jones University is doing to help us—first, by praying daily and earnestly for the institution; and second, by investing some of the money the Lord has given you in the work of the University. On the basis of the work that Bob Jones University has accomplished under God, we feel we have a right to ask for your financial support; and we believe you Christian people will be glad to co-operate with the institution financially. Thank you and the Lord bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
GREENVILLE, S. C.
(Advertisement)

Soon Too Late!

(Continued from page 1)

Canadian and foreign subscriptions, send \$1.25 for each six months' subscription, since we must pay extra postage.

We believe this is a really unique opportunity to bless hearts and homes, to help get people enlightened and give clear understanding of vital public issues. Sermons on communism, on worldliness, on modernism, on Catholicism and cults, and on science and the Bible, will make THE SWORD OF THE LORD a sparkling treasure house of blessing in the next six months. Remember that for fifteen of these sermons we paid \$1,750 in awards. We believe that no series of sermons equaling them on similar subjects has been published in this generation.

The decision they signed says: "Realizing that I am a sinner, and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour, and gladly mail this to let you know."

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"We immediately sent it to Miss

Gingrich for translation, but she

was so busy on the completion of

the Old Testament in Bangala

that it was left until we returned

from furlough last February.

"Would you want to do the

printing there, or have it done at

our press at Rethi? We could use

a printing of 25,000 immediately

for the mines camps and small

towns, as well as the bush sta-

tions.

"Thanking you in advance for

your immediate reply because of

the urgency to get the message of

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(signed) Mrs. H. D. Amstutz

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it is that hungry hearts who want

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Dear readers, this burden is



Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

DR. HYMAN J. APPELMAN of Box 8484, Kansas City 14, Missouri, writes of a record-breaking attendance and a record ingathering in eight days in the First Baptist Church of Opelika, Alabama. Then he was in Goldsboro, North Carolina, for three weeks, where he reports "more than 400 actually recorded professions of faith, and scores and scores of them have already been taken into the churches." We praise God for revivals.

More than 20 churches in the Portsmouth, Virginia, area cooperated in a three-week Crusade for Christ under **HYMAN APPELMAN**. During the course of the campaign, Dr. Appelman reports, "A number of Jews were among the 934 converts."

Alexander Park Baptist Church, of which Campaign Chairman H. L. Tolbert is pastor, saw 92 respond to the invitation, 77 of whom were voted into the church in one morning when Dr. Appelman preached there. His church had received more than 100 new members during the campaign. Several other churches reported that there had been more additions in those three weeks than in any previous year. (See picture).

* * *

EVANGELIST DON SUMMERS of 14 Elmcroft Crescent, Muller Road, Bristol 7, England, writes of a blessed "Kingswood for Christ" tent crusade (Bristol) June 14 to July 14. This is the district where John Wesley and George Whitefield saw revival. During the campaign 250 responded to Evangelist Summers' invitation.

Mr. Don Summers and his songleader, Reg Thomas, began their next crusade in Blackheath, Birmingham, on August 14, with further campaigns in Worcester, Chepstow, Gloucester and Llan-gollen this year.

* * *

EVANGELIST FREDIE GAGE of Houston, Texas, and singer, Jimmie Snelen of Dallas led the Memorial Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas, in a great one-week revival. The pastor, Rev. H. D. Hale, writes that literally hundreds were turned away from the closing service. He reports in eight days, 74 additions to the church, 53 by baptism, 21 by letter, 8 professions of faith by those wishing to join other churches, 61 rededications, with other decisions. There were 800 in Sunday School and 539 in Training Union the last day. The pastor had many kind words for this young team.

* * *

EVANGELIST BOB OUGHTON, 216 South 29th Street, Belleville, Illinois, writes of 32 people saved in one-night revivals in ten days in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Many Christians surrendered for soul winning, tithing, etc. Seventy-five young people took a vow never to touch liquor.

Nashville Crusade Begins With 23,000 in Vanderbilt Stadium; London Ministers Join Graham Team for First Crusade Since Return; Nashville Meetings to Continue Through September 19

Nashville, August 23—SPECIAL Twenty-three thousand persons crowded into Vanderbilt University Stadium at Nashville Sunday to welcome Billy Graham and Evangelistic Team back to their first Crusade in America since returning from Great Britain and Europe.

On hand to extend an official word of welcome were Nashville's Mayor, Ben West; Tennessee's Governor Frank C. Clement, and the area's congressman, Hon. Percy Priest.

The opening meeting in Nashville was preceded by a special meeting on Saturday evening, August 21, in Fort McClellan, Alabama, where Evangelist Graham addressed a crowd of 15,000 which included both military personnel and civilian guests from nearby communities. The meeting at Fort McClellan was arranged by Major General Paul H. Jordan who declared as he introduced Mr. Graham, that the meeting was "the crowning achievement of my thirty years of military service. We have been praying for this night for nearly two years."

Sharing in the work of the Team during the Nashville Crusade are two visiting London clergymen, the Rev. Thomas L. Livermore, Rector of the Morden Parish Church, and the Rev. Joseph D. Blinco, Minister of Archway Central Hall, Methodist. Both men were active in the recent Crusade in London.

The Nashville Crusade is scheduled to continue through September 19, with a two-week period of rest before the beginning of the Crusade in New Orleans on October 3.

* * *

Plans Announced for Billy Graham Meetings in Fall; New Orleans Crusade Begins October 3; West Coast Cities Scheduled for November Visits

Nashville, August 23—SPECIAL In Nashville this week Rev. Billy Graham made announcement of plans for evangelistic meetings following the close of the Nashville Crusade on September 19.

New Orleans, Louisiana, will be the next Crusade city, for a four-week series of meetings to begin in Pelican Stadium on October 3, continuing through October 31. In New Orleans an Executive Committee has been appointed, with Dr. J. D. Grey, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, as Chairman. The Pelican Stadium, home of the New Orleans team in the Southern Baseball Association, was selected as the Crusade site when the mu-



PORPSMOUTH, VIRGINIA, CAMPAIGN, July 18-August 8—Part of the crowd under the green top tent at the Hyman Appelman campaign. The report sent gives 934 converts, when 20 churches in the Portsmouth, Virginia, area cooperated in a three-week crusade.

nicipal auditorium proved to be unavailable.

During the month of November the Billy Graham Team will visit several West Coast cities according to the following schedule:

Portland, Oregon — November 20 and 21

Seattle, Washington — November 23 and 24

San Francisco, California — November 27

Sacramento, California — November 28

Also announced are plans to return to Great Britain in the Spring of 1955 for meetings. Details have not been completed, but plans call for the return meetings to begin in Glasgow with visits contemplated in other cities of Great Britain.

* * *

Torrey Johnson Meetings Bring Hundred Decisions

DENVER, Colo.—During the recent Torrey Johnson Tent Meetings held here, over one hundred first-time decisions for Christ were counted, according to the report of Rev. Donald MacDonald, president of the Denver Association of Evangelicals and general chairman of the campaign. More than 1,500 persons were present four times in the three-weeks meeting.

An experiment on location was made when an offer was accepted for the use of property outside the city and away from the center of things. Fine weather and ample parking adjacent to the tent contributed much to the success of this experiment. Also furnished gratis were the signs, organ, and grand piano. The offering goal to cover expenses lacked only a small amount of fulfillment and one of the laymen promised to cover anything remaining.

A special feature of the meetings was participation of the Claus Indian Family, full-blooded Mohawks who spent most of their time as missionaries on various Indian reservations. Co-operating

were twelve churches forming the North-West Denver Evangelistic Committee, sponsors of the campaign.

Most of the co-operating churches closed down their entire church program except for Sunday mornings, and some of the churches had sixty to eighty-five per cent of their memberships present on evenings when a count was taken. Impetus to the meetings was given by two fifteen-minute radio programs on Station KLIR in Denver, owned and operated by a minister of the area.

Following the campaign, plans were laid for another series of tent meetings in June 1955.

* * *

Harry Lintz Conducts Two Union Campaigns

LOS ANGELES — Two union campaigns—one in Martinsville, Va., and the other in Van Wert, Ohio—have recently been concluded by Dr. Harry M. Lintz with great success.

The united effort in Martinsville was the first such campaign in the history of the county. There were over 200 decisions for Christ, including one entire family involving three generations. Dr. O. B. Newton, pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, acted as chairman.

The Van Wert campaign was sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee under the co-chairmanship of Frank Wortman and Wayne Ries, laymen. Contributing greatly to the success of the campaign was the Ries family, numbering over thirty, whose pioneer grandfather had organized and built the church of which they are members. More than 180 decisions for Christ resulted from this meeting.

* * *

YFC New Staff Evangelist

Rev. Ted Place of Detroit, Michigan, has joined the staff of Youth for Christ International as a staff evangelist, combining his ministry with eight others working out of the Wheaton, Illinois, YFC headquarters. Place has had fifteen years of Christian experience and service in almost all phases of the ministry. He is in constant demand for evangelistic campaigns.

* * *

Jack Shuler, former Methodist evangelist, was baptized recently by Dr. R. G. Lee into the fellowship of Bellevue church of Memphis, Tenn.

* * *

In about 12 days in the Los Angeles area, **EVANGELIST BOB OUGHTON** saw 64 first-time decisions for salvation, and many rededications. His letter tells of real moving among God's people during the invitations.

* * *

Since this past January, our brother has seen 370 first-time decisions in his ministry. He has some time open after November 14, and until January 1. Address: 216 South 29th Street, Belleville, Illinois.

* * *

Jack Shuler Team in Santa Cruz

Recently the Santa Cruz (Calif.) Area Council of Churches voted to

sponsor a city-wide revival under the leadership of the Jack Shuler Team.

The campaign began on August 1st, with Don DeVos conducting the musical program assisted by a choir of 100 voices.

The services were held in the 2,400-seat Civic Auditorium, and the campaign marks the first time the auditorium has ever been filled to capacity for any religious event. Though this report is being dispatched before the crusade actually closes, it is certain that record decisions for Christ will reach three hundred for the two weeks.

One of the most noble features of the Jack Shuler Team is its ability to get the evangelical pastors to work together for souls. All the pastors from all the denominations are vehement in their praise of (Continued on page 5)

The Horton GOSPEL of JOHN Now! the 30th Million! Popular "Little Red Gospel of John" with expository headings and underscoring. Ideal for personal work and distribution. Printed on heavy paper, red corners, red bristol cover. 33¢ \$5.10 in 100 copies \$4.50. Dept. 070 Moody Press 820 N. La Salle Chicago 10, Ill.

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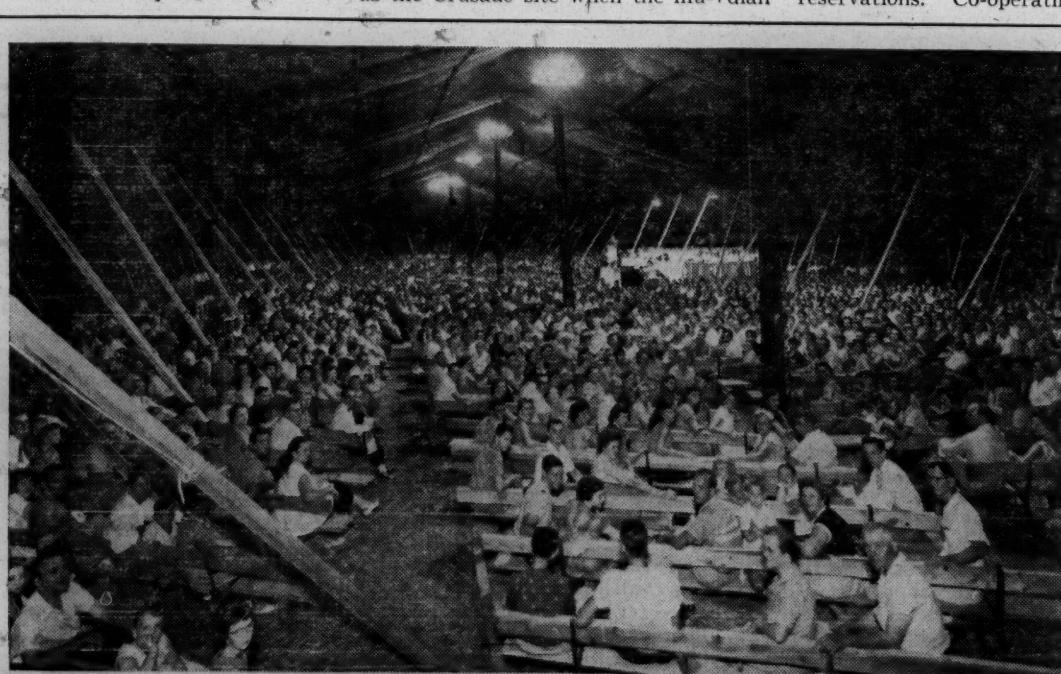
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OVERFLOWING TENT—An estimated crowd of 5,000 persons jammed the revival tent at Carson Park, Paducah, Kentucky, Sunday night, August 15, for closing service by Evangelist E. J. Daniels.

Congratulations Received!

A dear brother in Long Beach, California, writes:

"The Colgate-Rochester Divinity School Bulletin for May, 1954, published an address by Justin Wroe Nixon on 'My 45 Years in the Ministry,' in which he says on page 18, 'Note the attacks on the National Council of Churches by such organs of reactionary social and religious views as THE SWORD OF THE LORD.' Congratulations on reaction away from 'World Church'!"

(Signed) Walter H. Harris

Courage

By E. V. Cooke

Did you tackle the trouble that came your way?

With a resolute heart and cheerful?

Or hide your face from the light of day?

With a craven soul and fearful? O, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,

Or a trouble is what you make it, And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts.

But only how did you take it? You are beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that?

Come up with a smiling face. It's nothing against you to fall down flat,

But to lie there—that's disgrace. The harder you're thrown, why, the higher you bounce;

Be proud of your blackened eye! It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts;

It's how did you fight—and why?

Remember to say you saw it advertised in Baby Billboards

What Card Playing Did for a Sunday School Class

By J. Wilbur Chapman

While a friend of mine was conducting a meeting one morning, a tramp came in and said, "My father and mother used to sit in this pew. It is the first church I ever attended. My father was an officer in this church. Seven boys used to sit in this pew in the Sunday School class. We had a great love and respect for our Sunday School teacher. Saturday afternoon she invited us to her home, entertaining with music, eatables, and a look over the lesson. After a while she was anxious to please us and hold us, and she taught us the names of cards. None had ever used cards. We became enthusiastic over it, learning different games. After a while we would not give so much time to the lesson, but she let us have more time for playing cards, and would show us some more tricks. After a while we were off in the cotton gins playing cards and not going to her home. Later we failed to go to Sunday School. Cards, cigarettes, after a while drink and gambling. We all at different times left our homes. Two of those boys have been hung, three are in state prisons for life, one a vagabond like myself. No one knows where he is and if the authorities knew I was here, I would be arrested and put behind the bars. All I wish is that that teacher had never taught us how to play cards."

"You have a real warm spot in our hearts, Brother Rice, and we look forward to someday meeting you personally."

(Signed) Howard & Ruth Johnson

Give—Keep

HEAVEN'S rule is giving, giving, giving to a rebel race, giving when the gifts are slighted, mocked at to the Giver's face. Heaven's rule is giving, giving, Choicest Gift to Calvary's hill, Measure full and running over, Giving, giving, giving still.

Rule of earth is keeping, keeping, Keeping till the heart is seared; Keeping till each kindly instinct, towards God has disappeared. By Thy grace, eternal Spirit, Thaw us into love divine; That the measure of our giving may grow more and more like Thine.

JANET ROGERSON

Are You Like These Men?

It is said of the learned John Smith, "that he had resolved very much to lay aside other studies, and to travail in the salvation of men's souls, after whose good he most earnestly thirsted." Of Alaine, the author of "An Alarm to Unconverted Sinners," it is said that "he was infinitely and unsatiably greedy of the conversion of souls, and to this end he poured out his heart in praying and preaching." Said Bunyan: "In my preaching I could not be satisfied unless some fruits did appear for my work." "I would think it a greater happiness," said Matthew Henry, "to gain one soul to Christ, than mountains of silver and gold to myself. If I do not gain souls, I shall enjoy all my other gains with very little satisfaction, and I would rather beg my bread from door to door, than undertake this great work." Doddridge, writing to a friend, remarked: "I long for the conversion of souls more sensibly than for anything besides. Methinks I could not only labour, but die for it with pleasure. Similar is the death-bed testimony of the sainted Brown, of Haddington: "Now, after 40 years preaching of Christ, I think I would rather beg my bread all the labouring days of the week, for the opportunity of preaching the Gospel on the Sabbath, than, without such a privilege, to enjoy the richest possessions of earth. Oh! labour, labour," said he to his sons, "to win souls for Christ." Rutherford could assure his flock that they were the objects of his tears, cares, fears and daily prayers—that he laboured among them early and late, and "my witness," said he, "is above, that your heaven would be two heavens to me, and the salvation of you as two salutations to me." Whitefield said, "The more we do, the more we may do for Jesus. I sleep and eat but little, and am constantly employed from morning till midnight, and yet my strength is daily renewed. Oh, free grace! It fires my soul, and makes me long to do something for Jesus. I want more tongues, more bodies, more souls for the Lord Jesus. Had I ten thousand, He should have them all."

Grateful Missionaries

From the Evangelical Alliance Mission, Dindori, Nasik, India, comes the following letter from beloved missionaries who are now returning to the states. Friends will be interested in this kindly comment.

"Dear Brother Rice:

"We want you to know that your fine paper has been a real blessing to our hearts spiritually. We like its 'evangelical emphasis' and the writers are amongst the best in the field of evangelism today. We believe that this paper should be in every Christian home in America. We hope that we can be used in the US to increase its circulation. We like this paper because it adheres to God's Word and we believe that is why God is blessing the same."

"You have a real warm spot in our hearts, Brother Rice, and we look forward to someday meeting you personally."

(Signed) Howard & Ruth Johnson

Sword Twentieth Anniversary September 28

The first issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD was published on September 28, 1934. This month we celebrate our twentieth anniversary!

Will you help us celebrate by sending in as many subscriptions as possible?

We have a tremendous burden to spread revival fires, to stir up Christians, to win souls, to call people back to the old-fashioned faith in the Bible, the blood and to holy living and soul-winning zeal. If you will help us celebrate our twentieth anniversary, send subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD!

I suggest three ways:

1. Send as many six-month's subscriptions as possible, five or more at one time, at the low rate of \$1 for each six-month's subscription (\$1.25 in Canada and foreign countries).

2. Or you may accept a quota of 25, 50, 100 or more subscriptions and send them at the rock-bottom price of \$1.50 per year. But in that case you must clearly state

that you are accepting a quota of 25 or more subscriptions to be sent in in 1954.

3. Or you may send a subscription gift to our Minister and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. Many, many thousands of retired preachers, missionaries on the foreign field, missionaries in rural sections, native workers in foreign fields and ministers in other countries which do not allow funds to be sent to the United States—thousands of these want THE SWORD OF THE LORD, would read it with great blessing if they had it. Will you help us to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to such preachers and missionaries and other Christian workers? We always have more names than we can supply with THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Please pray about it and then, if possible, send \$10, \$50 or \$100 to help in this great work.

Address your letter to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois.

Please enclose a label and send old address when giving us a change to your new address.

With The Evangelists

(Continued from page 4)

each member of the Shuler team, and it is their desire to have them minister again.

EVANGELIST JIMMY O'QUINN (P. O. Box 1757, Texarkana, Arkansas) has just completed his thirteenth revival of the year at First Baptist Church, New London, Texas, where J. Travis Gibson is pastor. There were 18 additions to the church, 15 conversions, 11 for baptism, and other rededications were made in this one week of revival. The evangelist has been invited back for a two-week city-wide meeting next year.

Sword of the Lord Staff EVANGELIST ROBERT L. SUMNER conducted a revival campaign with the Drew Park Baptist Temple of Tampa, Florida, July 25 through August 1. Rev. L. H. Garmon is the pastor of this work. During the campaign, there were 13 first-time confessions of faith in Christ, and 19 rededications. This is a new work, and the church celebrated its fifth birthday the very first day of the campaign. According to the pastor, this was the best meeting they have had in their short history. Evangelist Sumner felt that God blessed wonderfully, even though he had an accident in his car and suffered a broken rib in the middle of the campaign.

Sword of the Lord EVANGELIST EDDIE WAGNER recently conducted a splendid revival campaign in the Greater Mount Pleasant Union Crusade of Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. Mr. John Coldsmith was chairman of this union crusade. There were 163 conversions and 75 rededications during this splendid revival campaign.

This was the first city-wide revival in Mount Pleasant for forty years. There were twenty-one churches represented in the campaign. The Sword revival team consisted of Evangelist Eddie Wagner, singer Clayton Booth, Seattle, Washington, and Byron Blackmore of Flushing, Michigan, the organist and pianist.

EVANGELIST JOSEPH T. LARSON, 4203 Alcott Street, Denver, 21, Colorado, reports: "Over 90 series conducted past 9 years (total ministry 35 years), in 24 states and Canada, 5 provinces. Approximately 2,000 came to Christ during this time, many backsliders reclaimed, with churches revived." He is Baptist, but will go anywhere there is a need. Open time after November 21.

More Than 5,000 Overflow Daniels' Revival Tent for Closing Service

An estimated 5,000 persons overflowed the E. J. Daniels tent in

The Sword in England

By the Editor

We are glad to announce that Evangelist Leslie Greening, 13 Wollaston Road, Dorchester, Dorset, England, will be THE SWORD OF THE LORD representative in the British Isles. He has government permission to send money to America for subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. English readers who wish to renew through him may write him.

ing the various churches. The Congregational Methodist Church, Rev. A. M. McLain, Pastor, was the main church supporting the revival, with members of the Methodist, Baptist, Nazarene, Church of God, and Assembly of God cooperating.

Their next campaign will be a three-week's tent campaign in Atlanta, Texas. This will be Rev. Comer's second meeting in Atlanta.

* * *

EVANGELIST EDDIE MARTIN is to be in an 8-day revival October 24-31 in the Kentucky State Reformatory at LaGrange, Kentucky. Mr. J. H. Longacre, a devoted layman, is the chaplain. He helped out other chaplains, finally was appointed a chaplain for an interval, and then because of tremendous blessings on his work, he was given the work permanently, and he serves without salary. Church attendance in the prison has grown from 50 to 400 or 500 men. He was a former wrestler and drunkard when Jesus saved him. He started teaching wrestling to the men, then preaching to them. He is greatly respected by authorities there.

The warden has promised to stop all activities except emergency work so that all of the 2,400 men may attend this, the first revival campaign ever to be held in a reformatory in Kentucky. Evangelist Eddie Martin gives his time. Let readers of THE SWORD pray for a blessed life-changing revival.

* * *

EVANGELIST BILL COMPTON of Decatur, Alabama, held a two-weeks' meeting at Villa Missionary Baptist Church, August 16-28, Rev. Clinton O. Hale, pastor, with ten confessing Christ as Saviour.

— The End —

SKID ROW STOPGAP



The Memphis Story, is a beautiful colored sound motion picture, 40 minutes in length, produced by the Memphis Union Mission, Jimmy Stroud, Supr. We are looking for individuals who own their own motion picture equipment and are experienced in presenting Christian films in their own area, to handle this Christian film on a percentage basis. If you are interested and would like this ministry please write for further information

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Salvation: Present or Future?

By the Editor

A good pastor writes hoping that I will answer the questions brought to him by one of his listeners. The pastor says, "As you can see, this man takes issue with my preaching that we are saved the moment we accept Christ as Saviour. I'll appreciate your help on this question very much."

The statement written by a member of the congregation to the pastor is as follows: "If we are saved now, then what is our faith for the life to come? Isn't our faith in Christ the hope of our being saved when He returns according to His promise? If we have already received the promise, why do we yet by faith hope for it? (Rom. 8:23-25) As Paul says, 'The righteous shall live by faith.' Faith is believing the one who made the promise can and will fulfill it when the time He has chosen comes, to perform that which He has promised, and believing on His word alone. Should we not say, I know *I shall be saved!* Was Noah saved from the waters of the flood the day God asked him to build the ark? No! he had to build the ark first. God would have sent the flood even if Noah had not believed God, that He was going to destroy the world by water."

"Was Isaac born to Abraham the same day God promised Abraham a son? No! Abraham had to wait for the time for the promise to be fulfilled, likewise we also must wait and go on believing and living by faith."

The Editor's Answer

March 5, 1953

Dear Brother T.:

I am glad to have your letter and will prayerfully do what I can to answer the question of your friend.

I. First, Let Me Say That Present-Tense Salvation Is Clearly Taught in the Scriptures

1. John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." That is certainly present-tense salvation.

2. John 3:18 says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned . . ." One who has trusted Christ is out of condemnation, that is he is not lost but is saved.

3. John 5:24 expressly says that one who hears the word and believes on Christ "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Such a person is already saved, already has everlasting life, is already passed from death unto life.

4. John 6:47 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

5. In Luke 7:47 Jesus said about the fallen woman who had wept over His feet, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven . . ." In the next verse He said, "And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."

In verse 50 we are told, "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." This woman was already forgiven. Her faith had already saved her, Jesus said. That is present-tense salvation.

6. Concerning Zacchaeus, the rich publican who climbed a tree to see Jesus, Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house . . ." (Luke 19:9). Certainly the man was already saved when Jesus said that.

7. In 1 John 3:2 the Scripture says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God . . ." That is present-

tense salvation for one who is already a child of God.

8. First John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . ." One who trusts in Christ may know that he already has eternal life. He is saved.

9. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul and those addressed already had peace with God, being already justified by faith.

10. Romans 5:9 says, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Here is present-tense salvation; "being now justified by his blood . . ." And here is future fulfillment and completion of our salvation through the keeping power of God; "we shall be saved from wrath through him." So salvation is present and it is also future.

11. Romans 5:11 says, "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." Paul says that we have already received the atonement.

I think that is enough to show beyond any shadow of doubt that one who has trusted in Christ is justified, has everlasting life, is born of God, has already received the atonement. That is certainly present-tense salvation.

II. Your Friend Misinterprets Romans 8:23-25. The Obvious Meaning of That Passage is That the Adoption, to Wit the Redemption of the Christian's Body, Is Yet Future

In that same eighth chapter of Romans again and again it is clearly taught that one who trusts in Christ is already saved. Verse 14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." The next verse says, "...but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." We now have a right to call God Father and we are led by the Holy Spirit to do so.

The next verse, Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" and 17, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Here we have the express statement "that we are the children of God." Those of us who have trusted Christ have the assurance of the Holy Spirit that we are now already the children of God, hence already saved. But verse 17 says there is more for us; we are not only saved now, we are, in the future to be glorified together.

Now read Romans 8:18 which tells of the glory which shall be revealed in the resurrection. These created bodies wait to be manifested as bodies of the sons of God, verse 19 tells us. Verse 21 tells us that "the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." That is, the Christian's created body shall be delivered from the weakness and bondage of sin and made perfect in the resurrection.

Now read verses 22 to 25: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaleth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

It is clear, then, that while we who have trusted Christ are already saved, already justified, already born again, have already received the atonement and now have everlasting life, yet our salvation is not complete. Our bodies are not made perfect. But the redemption of the body will take place at Christ's second coming, in the resurrection. While we are saved now, our salvation is in the spirit, not the body, and is not visible. One day this glorious salvation will be visible even in the body, as we are manifested, visibly, physically, as the sons of God.

The rest of the eighth chapter of Romans tells how definitely God has determined to finish the work He has begun in perfect and complete salvation of body as well as the spirit.

I hope this will be helpful. In the Saviour's name, yours,

Who Are You Trusting?

By Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

The Psalmist said, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." In other words, he says if we dwell in the secret place—that is, stay there—we are living or abiding under the shadow of the Almighty. That means we wall ourselves about with Omnipotence. It is my responsibility to dwell in the secret place. When I do that, it then becomes God's responsibility to take care of me.

When I was a boy, I used to go walking with my father at night. I would reach up and take hold of his hand. In other words, I put myself under his protecting power. He was responsible to see to it that I didn't fall down and that nothing would hurt me. As a father he was glad to protect me.

God delights in having us look to Him for protecting care. We are passing through a world filled with pitfalls, dark valleys, slippery roads, and a world filled with many enemies. The wisest of the wise is not able to find his way along or take care of himself. We all need God.

The Psalmist knew God and he said, "I will say of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." What a refuge! What a fortress! The God who made this world and created flaming suns with which to light the universe is willing and eager to walk through the darkness of this world with His own children, protecting them, shielding them, taking care of them, enfolding them in the arms of protection, overshadowing them with His Presence.

Years ago a railroad train wrecked in a Southern state. The cars all piled up on the embankment. People began to cry in pain and terror. An old, gray-haired preacher stood up in the midst of the rubbish and above all the noise he said, "I am trusting God. Who are you folks trusting?"

The world is well-nigh wrecked. There are wars and rumors of wars. There is a chaotic condition in practically every nation. Some trust dictators. Some depend on kings. Some rely upon democracies. Some are turning to communism and others are looking elsewhere for help. We Christians in the midst of all the uncertainty, while men are clamoring for protecting power from human leadership and human genius, should cry unto God and say, "We trust you. You are our refuge. You are our strength. You are our fortress. In Thee, O God, do we trust."

groaneth and travaleth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

It is clear, then, that while we who have trusted Christ are already saved, already justified, already born again, have already received the atonement and now have everlasting life, yet our salvation is not complete. Our bodies are not made perfect. But the redemption of the body will take place at Christ's second coming, in the resurrection. While we are saved now, our salvation is in the spirit, not the body, and is not visible. One day this glorious salvation will be visible even in the body, as we are manifested, visibly, physically, as the sons of God.

The rest of the eighth chapter of Romans tells how definitely God has determined to finish the work He has begun in perfect and complete salvation of body as well as the spirit.

I hope this will be helpful. In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice

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MEDDLIN'

Aunt Becky was punctuating the Negro preacher's sermon with "Amen! Amen! . . . Praise de Lawd! . . ." as he lit into every sort of sin from murder to shooting craps. Then the parson moved on against snuff-dipping, and Aunt Becky exclaimed to her neighbor indignantly, "Dar now! He's done stopped preachin' and gone to meddin'!"

—MRS. CHARLES ALLEN in *Progressive Farmer*

"YOU CAN'T HOLD ANOTHER FELLOW DOWN IN THE DITCH UNLESS YOU STAY DOWN THERE WITH HIM."

—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

"IS THERE NO GOD TODAY?"

There was a little girl whose name was Anna. Her parents were not Christians. They never prayed. When they gathered round the table for their meals they never asked a blessing, or acknowledged God as the Giver of all their mercies. And when the day was passed they lay down at night, I will not say like heathen, but like animals, never thanking God for all His favors, and never asking Him to take care of them while they slept.

At length there came a pious uncle to spend a few weeks with them. During his stay he was invited to ask a blessing on their meals.

The morning after he had left them, the family gathered round the table and were about to commence their breakfast when little Anna, who sat next to her father, looked up to him and whispered, "Is there no God today, papa?" This touching question of his child went straight to his heart.

Prayer at table was never afterwards forgotten.

—Exchange

BACKSLIDING BEGINS IN THE KNEES.

GOD IN A FRAME

"I will manifest myself to him." —John 14:21.

A little boy, whose father was away from home most of the time, looked at his dad's picture on the wall and said to his mother: "Mother, I wish father would come out of that frame."

Is God real to you, a Person near at hand? Or is He more like a picture on the wall, a motto, a doctrine, something wonderful to look at and think about, but still in a frame? Have you wished He might come out of the frame, become a glorious living Reality? Have you cried, "Oh, that I knew where I might find Him?"

—VANCE HAVNER

"TRUST IN GOD AND DO SOMETHING."

—MARY LYONS

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The Switching

A Story for Children

One day Peter felt very mean in school. He wouldn't put his gym shoes away. He wouldn't finish his number work. He kept on talking when the children were supposed to be quiet.

The teacher sent him to the principal and the principal called his mother. "We are sending Peter home," he said. "He cannot stay in school if he doesn't follow the rules and obey his teacher."

Peter felt very cross and unhappy as he went home. He could hardly believe that the principal had actually sent him away from school. He didn't like it when his teacher was cross with him. He knew the boys and girls would tease him about being sent home.

Sure enough, his mother had a big switch when he came in the door. But she didn't look angry. She looked sad. She asked Peter to sit down on the couch.

"Why are people disobedient and bad?" she asked him.

"I don't know," answered Peter. "Because they feel like it I guess."

"But what makes them feel like it?" Since Peter couldn't answer, Mother answered her own question. "They feel like being bad because they are thinking only of themselves and want their own selfish way. But God says that when we try to get our own selfish way, we aren't the only ones who get hurt."

"Who else gets hurt?" Peter wanted to know.

"The Lord Jesus Himself never did anything wrong. But He died on the Cross to take the punishment that you deserve for your selfishness," his mother explained. "And when you are bad, I am hurt, too."

"What do you mean?" asked Peter. "You never get spanked! I'm the only one who gets spanked!"

"Because I love you, Peter, I am hurt inside," answered his mother. "You hurt me each day with your disobedience and badness. But to help you to understand, I am going to let you hurt me in a different way. Here is

the switch. Today you may give me a spanking." At last he took the switch and hit her just a little bit.

"No, hit harder!" commanded his mother. "Hit me as though I had really been selfish and disobedient!"

"No, no!" cried Peter.

"Yes," said his mother.

At last Peter hit his mother across the legs with the switch. He saw tears come into her eyes. Then he threw the switch on the floor and began to cry. "I don't want to hurt you, Mother. I love you!"

His mother put her arms around him. "But you do hurt me, Peter. Every day, by your selfishness and sinfulness, you hurt me far more than any whipping could ever do. The Lord Jesus loves you, too, and because He does, your disobedience hurts Him in the same way."

Peter had never understood that before: "I'm sorry, Mother. I want to tell Jesus I'm sorry, too."

Then Peter prayed and asked Jesus to forgive him and to take away his selfishness and disobedience. Somehow, when he had finished praying, he felt better than he ever had before. Somehow, he didn't even want to be mean anymore.

Mother took Peter back to school in the car.

"I'm ready to obey my teacher now," Peter told the principal. Then the principal let him go back to his room. There, Peter asked his teacher to forgive him. She smiled and seemed happy then. The children didn't tease him either. They were glad that he was going to try to be different.

And from that time on, Peter was different because he kept asking the Lord Jesus to help him.

—Primary Days

Shun Speculation

By C. H. SPURGEON

To leave the consideration of well-known and soul-saving truths to fight over unimportant subtleties, is to turn our corn fields into poppy gardens. To imagine that the writers of unintelligent mysticism are men of great depth, is to find wisdom in the hootings of owls.

True spirituality shuns the obscure and dilettanti, and delights in the plain and practical; but there is much to fascinate in the superfine shams of the hour. Some are zealots for a certain theory of 666, and the two witnesses, and the little horn, who would be far better employed in training up their children in the fear of God, or listening for their instruction to a sober preacher of the Word of God. It is a most fitting thing to be looking for the coming of the Lord, but a most miserable waste of time to be spinning theories about it, and allowing the millions around us to perish in their sins.

Ragged schools, orphanages, street-preaching, tract distributing almsgiving, these are the present and pressing questions for the Christian Church; whether the stream of the Euphrates is likely to diminish, or the Dead Sea to flow into the Mediterranean, may be settled in less needy times.

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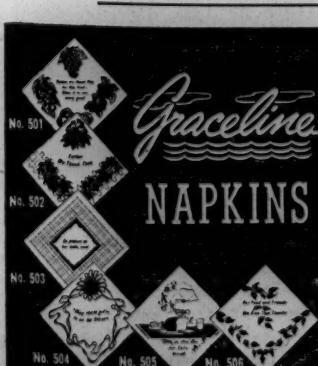
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False Prophets . . .

(Continued from page 1)

only to have the Lord say, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

In this passage Jesus tells us plainly of the vicious ministry of the cleverly disguised false prophet which will succeed in deceiving "many" into thinking that there are ways of entering into the kingdom of Heaven other than the straight and narrow, and of the tragic destructiveness of such ministry in bringing about the eternal damnation of precious, never-dying souls. To Jesus, false prophets were not imaginary; they were terribly, menacingly real! Surely then, His words of warning should be taken seriously to heart and we should be constantly on the alert to uncover the 'wolves in sheep's clothing' who have it in their power through their false teaching, to plant the "kiss of death" upon the souls of men and thus damn them to eternal destruction in a Devil's Hell! We cannot afford to be guilty of hiding or covering up or of giving aid and comfort to such wretchedly despicable characters.

Since this is a matter of such grave and serious consequence, we will do well to prayerfully study the careful Bible teaching on this subject. There is an abundance of Scripture testimony which, added to this warning of Jesus, brings the subject into such clear focus that even a child can understand. May God help you to see and understand the facts and to act upon them in accordance with His blessed will.

I. False Prophets Are Clearly Foretold

1. There Were and Shall Be False Prophets

Looking further into God's Word, we discover that Jesus spoke of these false prophets in two other passages. In Matthew 24:11 He said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Again, in verse 24, and in Mark 13:22, Jesus said, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets."

Paul spoke of false teachers in his day. In II Corinthians 11:13-15, he wrote, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed [literally, transform themselves] as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

When Paul called the elders of the Ephesian church together, he said, "Take heed . . . For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-30).

In Galatians 2:4 Paul tells of "false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty . . . that they might bring us into bondage."

Can there be any question that he is speaking about false teachers when, in Galatians 1:8, 9, speaking of those who would "pervert the gospel of Christ," he says, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you then that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Once more, he speaks of those who "have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof," "men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" and he commands, "from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:5-8).

As forceful and clear as Paul's words are concerning false prophets, there is yet more—much more!

The Apostle John speaks of them in I John 2:18, 19, referring

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"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."—Matt. 7:15.

". . . shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."—Acts 20:29, 30.

". . . cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned."—Rom. 16:17.

"There be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."—Gal. 1:7.

"False brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out of liberties . . . that they might bring us into bondage."—Gal. 2:4.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."—II Tim. 3:5.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."—II Tim. 4:3.

". . . who privily shall bring in damnable heresies . . . many shall follow their pernicious ways."—II Pet. 2:1, 2.

"Scoffers, walking after their own lusts."—II Pet. 3:3.

"They went out from us, but they were not of us."—I John 2:19.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits . . . because many false prophets are gone out into the world."—I John 4:1.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world."—II John 7.

"For there are certain men crept in unawares . . . speak evil of those things which they know not . . . mockers . . . walk after their own ungodly lusts . . . who separate themselves."—Jude 4, 10, 18, 19.

"Deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ . . . [transforming themselves] as the ministers of righteousness."—II Cor. 11:13-15.

It isn't a very pleasant story, is it? Perhaps you will be able to understand these passages a little better if I give you their content under four simple headings:

First of all, these teachers are:

(a) Deceitful

They are described as "deceivers" and "deceitful workers." The word in the original means "to lead astray." Hence, these men who pose as teachers and seek the privilege of leadership among God's people are treacherous men who are engaging in traitorous activity.

Because they are not worthy of the position they assume, they are pointed out as: "false prophets"; "false teachers"; "false Christs"; "false apostles"; "false brethren"; they are referred to as "antichrists." Although they profess to be teachers of truth, they are "false teachers" of that which is the opposite of truth.

Their deceitful character is further pointed out in the words of Jesus when He says that they will "come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Posing as members of the Lord's flock, they are actually bloodthirsty beasts of prey seeking to devour the flock.

Because of their cleverness in the art of deception, we are warned not to believe every spirit, but to "try the spirits whether they are of God." We are told to test them regarding their belief in the miracle of the incarnation, involving the doctrine of the virgin birth, the deity, the sinlessness, and the miraculous character of the life of Jesus from His conception to His ascension.

We are informed that far from being trustworthy teachers of the truth, they are actually "scoffers" and "mockers."

So successful are they in their deceit that they are able to convey the impression that they are "apostles of Christ" and "ministers of righteousness." If we find it difficult to believe that this is possible, we are told not to marvel, "for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." In fact, Jesus said that they would be so clever that, "if it were possible,

(Continued on page 8)

False Prophets . . .

(Continued from page 7)

sible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

Not only are they deceitful in their methods, they are also.

(b) Destructive

One of the most tragic statements made about these false teachers is that "many shall follow their pernicious ways." The word *pernicious* means destructive. Everything about their methods is destructive. They may speak of being constructive, but the Bible states that such is certainly not the case. They have no regard for the flock, the true church... "not sparing the flock." They "cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned" from the truly inspired teachers of God, and "trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ." They endeavor "to bring us into bondage" to the Law and sin and Satan.

Strange as it may seem to many, God speaks of these false teachers as those "who separate themselves" and He tells us that "they went out from us" because "they were not of us." He places upon them the blame of division and splits within the professing church. Professing to represent the true church, they separate themselves from the basic, cardinal doctrines of the faith and from those who are determined "to stand steadfast in the faith. Because they were not actually "of us" and never were actually true members of the flock, it is inevitable that they should ultimately break away from those who would not follow their pernicious ways. They are constantly on the march and always in the same direction—away from the position of orthodoxy, farther and still farther along the road of blatant error and unbelief.

Teaching destructive heresies, they "draw away disciples after them." These false teachers are sometimes called modernists, but they are really not a modern development at all. Their kind have been operating from the very earliest days of the church and ever and always they have been guilty of "drawing away disciples after themselves." Refusing to be bound by what some of their number call "the limitations of orthodoxy" they have fought for their wicked ways and insisted in pushing their ungodly and unscriptural program even to the point of taking over churches, denominations, and groups of denominations!

In the process of our search for the truth concerning these false teachers, we are brought face to face with the serious fact that their presence within the church is not accidental; their methods are not a matter of happenstance; their teaching is not the innocent presentation of new ideas developed in the process of making intellectual progress and growing into maturity. Nothing innocent or accidental about it! It is the result of

(c) Deliberate Design

I am not speculating here. I am giving you the facts of God's Word. I make bold to emphasize that fact at this point because we are about to consider one of the most important factors in our study.

Shortly after the Revised Standard Version of the Bible was published, I was having lunch with some splendid Christian businessmen and other Christian workers. We were discussing this new "Bible" and in the course of our discussion I said that I could see no reason whatever based on scholarship, logic or just plain common sense, why Isaiah 7:14 should have been changed in the new translation to read "young woman" instead of "virgin." I said, "On the other hand, I can think of at least a score of reasons why this reading should not have been changed." One of those present, a good friend of mine, surprised me by incredulously suggesting, "Why, you don't mean to suggest that there was some sinister, malicious plot behind the scenes, do you?" I couldn't help but be surprised that a man of his training and background and Christian experience would think it incredible that such be the case.

Notice how clearly the Bible presents the evidence of deliberate design on the part of these false teachers. They "enter in among you." Coming from the ranks of the unbelievers, they enter the ranks of the believers. It is a deliberate act and for a specific purpose. They are "crept in unawares," men who "came in privily" and "privily shall bring in destructive heresies." It is interesting to note that the words "crept" and "privily" come from the same basic word in the Greek and they mean "to lead in sideways." So, we are informed that these are men who have stealthily crept in through the side door "to spy out our liberty" in order to "bring us into bondage."

But the sinister aspects of this deliberate design is not fully appreciated until you are made to realize that their methods as well as their message is

(d) Devilish

Those who are at all acquainted with the activities of these men have long known that there was something demonic and infernal about them. Recognizing this nefarious, accursedly diabolical quality about their activities, they have been all the more determined to combat them at every turn of the road.

These false teachers are spoken of as "his [Satan's] ministers." See how false it is to call them ministers of the Lord, or of the Gospel? They are spoken of as possessing false spirits... not of God. Their's is the teaching of demons (I Tim. 4:1). We are not surprised, then, to discover that they "speak evil of those things which they know not" (as for example, the virgin birth), "walking after their own ungodly lusts."

We are not left in any doubt about it—their's is evil, ungodly lustful, activity in the power of evil spirits as the ministers of Satan! How, then, can their activities be anything less than sinister, malicious and insidious?

Having carefully considered their methods of operation, let us consider secondly,

2. The Message They Proclaim

It is at this point that their vicious efforts are brought into clearest focus. As the ministers of Satan they have successfully used deceit to enable them to win the confidence of the members of the flock. These wolves of Hell have so cleverly disguised their naturally beastlike qualities and camouflaged their hairy, brutish, ferocious, ravenous character with the sheep's clothing of a pious profession and the terminology, forms and trappings of orthodoxy, that they have proven that it is possible to "deceive the very elect." They have gained influence, position and power through their cunning conniving and in this setting they inject the deadly, devastating poison of error, falsehood, heresy and downright unbelief into the bloodstream of the human race. The record in the Bible and in history is unmistakeably plain and unspeakably tragic!

(a) The Bible Description

These unscrupulous men are described as "speaking perverse things" (Acts 20:30). This word "perverse" means "to turn diversely"; in other words, they turn away or divert men from the truth.

In some of the strongest language ever used by the Apostle Paul, we are told that these men "pervert the gospel of Christ" and teach "another gospel which is not another." He calls them accursed two times over for this most vicious form of iniquity (Gal. 1:6-9). Again, he speaks of "perverse disputings of men... [who] consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness" (I Tim. 6:3-5). In II Timothy 3:5 he tells us that, although they have the form of godliness and go through all the outward appearance of Christian service, they "deny the power thereof." Their message is devoid of heart, of life and of power! In verse 8, Paul says, they "resist the truth." They profess to be

occupied with the presentation of truth, but actually, they are engaged in opposing and fighting it; they are the enemies of truth. In II Timothy 4:3 and 4, we are informed that these men are without principle and devoid of convictions; that when men "will not endure sound doctrine [teaching]" these teachers will be on hand to satisfy their lusts and their itching ears; and through their teaching will "be turned unto fables."

Peter warns us in II Peter 2, that these teachers will bring in "damnable [destructive] heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them" and by reason of them "the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." He says they will use "feigned words" (cleverly shaped words, designed to mislead). He says they have "forsaken the right way, and are gone astray".... they speak great swelling words of vanity [pride], they allure through the lusts of the flesh... they promise them liberty" while they themselves are under bondage. Instead of serving as true ambassadors of God and speaking His message uncompromisingly, they present their own man-made message for the purpose of giving men what they want and playing up to the lusts of the flesh. Proudly and pompously, they make great promises concerning liberty about which they know nothing, since they themselves are under bondage to sin and Satan.

John tells us that these men are liars who deny the Son of God (I John 2:22, 23). In chapter four he tells us that, since these false prophets are possessed of spirits which are not of God, they will refuse to bear witness that Jesus is God incarnate in human flesh; that He is and ever shall be God of very gods; that as such, He lived a perfectly sinless life on a miraculous plane; that He died miraculously, arose from the dead in triumphant power miraculously, ascended to be with the Father in Heaven miraculously and is coming again miraculously! All of these great cardinal facts are interwoven with the great doctrine of the incarnation. Then he tells us, "They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them."

Jude tells us that these men are "ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Again, he says, "they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam," referring to a religion of rationalism and good works, but rejecting redemption by blood. As Dr. Scofield puts it, "Compelled as a teacher of religion to explain the atonement, the apostate teacher explains it away" (Scofield Bible, p. 1329).

Having considered the Bible description of their message, let us now see if there are any

(b) Modern Illustrations of Such Teachers

We don't have to look far to find them. They are everywhere in abundance. A veritable library of books could be written to present the mountains of evidence which are readily available. Each of the major denominations in America and many, if not most, of the smaller ones would require scores and scores of volumes to cover each individual case. Nearly every religious educational institution in America, even some of our most widely known fundamental schools, would require additional volumes. The record of the old Federal Council, now the National Council of Churches of Christ, and its various constituent bodies apart from denominations would require literally hundreds of volumes more. And we haven't even referred to the false teaching which has been presented on the mission fields of the world with tragic consequences, nor of the development of such teaching in every nation upon the face of the earth where the Christian church is known. Yes, the record is available in abundance.

Before looking at some of this evidence, perhaps we should look at an editorial of unusual clarity and perspective which outlines the basic doctrinal differences between fundamentalism and modernism in concise form, more clearly than anything else I have yet read. In

an editorial published by the *Christian Century* back in 1924 entitled, "Fundamentalism and Modernism: Two Religions," the editor said that "there is a clash here as grim as between Christianity and Confucianism... The God of the fundamentalist is one God; the God of the modernist is another. The Christ of the fundamentalist is one Christ; the Christ of the modernist is another. The Bible of fundamentalism is one Bible; the Bible of modernism is another. The church, the kingdom, the salvation, the consummation of all things—these are one thing to fundamentalists and another thing to modernists." These significant facts will become crystal clear as you compare the following pronouncements of modern false teachers with the truth as it is in God's Holy Word.

In order to bring these illustrations into the clearest possible focus so that they will graphically portray the false message of these modern ministers of Satan, I am going to consider them briefly under four different headings, each one representing an actual quotation or clearly expressing the sentiment of a Bible passage.

In a very serious charge, the Bible tells us that these teachers are guilty of

(1) "Turning the Grace of God into Lasciviousness"

Bible-believing Christians believe that the greatest manifestation of the "grace of God" is presented in the marvel and miracle of the Divine Incarnation. Never was His grace displayed more wonderfully than when He descended to clothe deity with human flesh and through the conception by the Holy Ghost, produced the virgin-born Son of God as the Saviour of the world. In the Bible, this infinitely precious story is unfolded beautifully to reveal a lovely woman of unquestioned purity who had never known man, as the highly favored mother of our Lord.

But in spite of this, one of the most prominent spokesmen for the National Council of Churches of Christ, one of the leading Congregationalist—Methodist theologians, Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre, professor of philosophical theology at Vanderbilt University, suggests that Christ was born in adultery. Repeating a Nazi claim that Jesus was German, he says, "Mary, we remember, was found pregnant before her engagement to mild Joseph. Nazareth was hard by a Roman garrison where the soldiers were German mercenaries. Jesus is also reported... to have been blond... hence, Jesus must have been the child of a German soldier!... Such an interpretation has been made of His life, and who can deny that such a conjecture could be true?" (*Christian Understanding of God*, page 191).

Here the doctrine of the incarnation and of the virgin birth which, as we have seen, refer to the events which present the greatest display of His grace, are twisted out of shape, completely distorted and turned into lasciviousness. The birth of Jesus is said to be the result of licentiousness on the part of an impure, sinful woman and a common, wicked German soldier. This is exhibit number one held up in bold relief to illustrate how modern false prophets, possessed by evil spirits, are doing the work of Satan well, in "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness."

A second charge concerning false teachers is,

(2) "Denying the Only Lord God"

One wonders where to begin, there is such an abundance of evidence to substantiate this charge. A more literal translation of this charge would be, "denying our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ." In another passage it reads, "denying the Lord that bought them," having reference to the priceless payment of the blood of Jesus Christ, the purchase price of man's redemption.

When we realize that these false teachers are actually the ministers of Satan, we are not surprised at all to discover that they are busily engaged in "denying our only Master." For them, there is only one master—Satan! In order to serve him well, his min-

isters must do their best to wreck the faith of men in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the March, 1944, annual meeting of the International Council of Religious Education (an affiliate of the National Council), held in the Stevens Hotel in Chicago and attended by fifteen hundred people, one of the speakers was Dr. Wesner Fallaw in the Leadership Education section. At the meeting he said, "Jesus is not God, nor another god; nor yet the only revelation we have of God, the source and ground of existence. Our teaching becomes idolatry if it presents Jesus... as being himself a God. To my mind, one of the major faults with orthodoxy has always been the practice of confusing God with Jesus. We still have much to do in deleting from the prayers, hymns and certain textbooks used with children, evidence of Christ-worship."

Bishop Francis J. McConnell of the Methodist Church, president of the Federal Council in 1932, on page 15 of his book, *The Christlike God*, says, "Is not this tendency to deify Jesus more heathen than Christian? Are we not most truly Christian when we cut loose from a heathen propensity and take Jesus simply for the character he was and for the ideal that he is?"

In the "Bible Lessons for Adults" Methodist Sunday School quarterly for the second quarter in 1949, the statement is made that, "Jesus paid the cost of His salvation on the cross."

Again we consider some of the statements of Nels Ferre, "Jesus himself, then, may have been misled as well as helped by the use of Scripture" (*The Sun and the Umbrella*, p. 40).

In this same book, on page 27, we read, "How was the life of Jesus mythologized even in the New Testament?... it did present him as sinless, and thereby robbed him of his humanity." Speaking of Jesus on page 30, he says, "He learned, even to be good, through teachers and experience."

In his earlier volume, *The Christian Understanding of God*, he wrote, "We have no way of knowing, even that Jesus was sinless" (p. 186). On page 201, he writes, "Sinlessness is a bloodless category, making an anemic savior," and on page 192, "...we cannot know the truth about the biological birth of Jesus."

With reference to the virgin birth, a doctrine of cardinal importance to the Christian faith, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick said in a widely publicised letter, "Of course, I do not believe in the virgin birth." In his sermon, "The Peril of Worshipping Jesus," Dr. Fosdick gives us his actual opinion of Jesus when he says, "We expect to find the bones of Jesus somewhere in the grave."

With this shockingly blasphemous statement from one of the most highly regarded "leaders" of the modern religious world, we have presented Exhibit 2, for the purpose of proving that modern false prophets are guilty of "denying the only Lord God."

You will remember that one of the charges against these false teachers made by Peter was that they will

(3) "Bring in Damnable [Destructive] Heresies"

The orthodox view of the Bible has always been that it is indeed and in truth the very Word of God, infallible, fully and verbally inspired, and that, as such, it is the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian church. It is the final authority in all things moral and spiritual. This cherished conviction of men of God through the ages past is not held by the modern liberal religious leader. He offers a substitute for this orthodox position in the form of destructive heresy. Here are some samples:

Dr. George A. Buttrick, prominent Presbyterian pastor, and editor of the new Interpreter's Bible, in his book, *Christian Fact and Modern Doubt*, page 162, says, "Literal infallibility of Scripture is a fortress impossible to defend: there is treason in the camp. Probably few people who claim to believe every word of the Bible really mean it. That avowal held (Continued on page 9)

False Prophets . . .

(Continued from page 8)

to its last logic would risk a trip to the insane asylum."

Dr. Millar Burrows of Yale University, one of the translators of the RSV, said in his book, *Outline of Biblical Theology* (p. 50), "We cannot take the Bible as a whole and in every part as stating with divine authority what we must believe and do." Mr. Ernest Gordon of the *Sunday School Times*, further wrote on December 11, 1952, "Dr. Millar Burrows denies what he calls 'the idea of mechanical inspiration...what is ultimately authoritative for us is that which commands the assent of our best judgment, accepted as the witness of the Spirit within us,' so, he cuts out of the Great Commission the trinitarian formula as not authentic."

Dr. E. G. Homrichausen, of Princeton, an outstanding National Council leader, says, "Few intelligent Protestants still hold to the idea that the Bible is an infallible book; that it contains no linguistic errors, no historical discrepancies, no antiquated scientific assumptions, nor even bad ethical standards....The Bible contains much history, some of it faintly imbedded in age-old myths, folk tales, battle-songs, camp-fire recitals and the like" (*Christianity in America*, p. 121).

A very prominent modern heretic is Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, who said, "God for us cannot be...an...avenging Being who because of Adam's sin must have his Shylockian pound of flesh. No wonder the honest boy in justifiable repugnance could say, 'dirty bully'" (*Preaching in a Revolutionary Age*, p. 79).

Dr. Fosdick, in another radio sermon, made a statement which has been widely circulated, in which he takes the radically heretical position of repudiating the entire theological concept of our forefathers, "...the theology of our forefathers is an insult to our intellect."

This same man wrote a book entitled, *Modern Use of the Bible*, in which he says on page 151, "No kind of miracle is related in Scripture, the counterpart of which cannot be found, and found repeatedly in the records of other religions." Again, on page 164, we read, "Certainly, I find some of the miracle-narratives of Scripture historically incredible."

In the new Interpreter's Bible, which is being widely publicized by the major denominations and by the National Council of Churches' leadership, there are hundreds of heretical statements. Here are a very few:

"The creation of man is invested with special solemnity. God first consults with divine beings other than himself" (Vol. I, p. 482).

"The story in this chapter (Gen. 3) of man's disobedience to God's command and of his expulsion from the garden to a life-of toil is dependent upon an ancient myth...a fragment of this myth is now preserved in vs. 22" (Vol. I, p. 501).

On the next page "...intelligent people must get free from dogmatic definition of 'good' and 'evil' and above all, from obsessions with the notion of 'sin'."

With reference to the story of the Flood (Vol. I, p. 536), "It is generally recognized that this story is ultimately based upon the Babylonian myth... A universal flood...would of course be a physical impossibility."

Coming back again to Nels Ferre, we are startled to read in his book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*, page 39, "The use of the Bible as the final authority for Christian truth is idolatry." We are told that such an appeal to the Bible keeps God from men!

If we would accept the teachings of these ministers of the infernal region, we would be of all men most miserable! No Word of God to settle our doubts; no virgin-born, incarnate Son of God to provide for our redemption; the miracles of the Bible are unbelievable and impossible; and the theology of our forefathers which has been so effective for these nearly two thousand years in bringing God to men and men to God, is an "insult to our intellect!"

But this is not all, for the Bible

predicted that these false teachers would

(4) *Pervert the Gospel of Christ*

Fosdick comes into the picture again with the statement from his famous letter, "O course I do not believe...in that old-fashioned substitutionary doctrine of the atonement."

Nels Ferre, in his *The Sun and the Umbrella* book, says on page 31, "The God of love needs no placating, no offering once for all to satisfy Him."

On page 35, he says, "To call Jesus God is to substitute an idol for Incarnation; to call him Saviour, in the ultimate sense, is to deny that all salvation comes from God our Saviour and from Him alone in order that God might be all and in all." Here is another word from Dr. George Buttrick, "Jesus was not a sinner. He has done nothing to incur God's wrath. And if God dealt with Him as if He were the greatest sinner, then we must say of God...Your God is my devil" (p. 18, *Great Themes of the Christian Faith*).

In Volume I, page 917 of the Interpreter's Bible, we are told, "From the earliest records of primitive sacrifice man has been obsessed by the efficacy of innocent blood to save from disaster. Both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant churches have perpetuated this *primitive tradition* in all their ritual, in their hymns and sacred books. Realistically, shed blood is horrible beyond words..."

On the following page we are informed, "To Paul and Augustine, both men with cruel pasts, both men living among scenes of sacrificial cruelty, the slaying of the lamb could become the central picture of their faith...a satisfactory theory of atonement for murder by murder can be reached only by sophisticated and theological ruses unacceptable to fair minds today. We need a new statement of Christian doctrine which will discard outworn imagery.... The time has come when we can discard some of the imagery of blood which was entirely satisfactory to Paul and Augustine, as it was to Moses....For in the 'fountain filled with blood' idea there is undoubtedly much of the mistakenly mystical justification and glorification of war."

According to these men, the Bible teaching "without the shedding of blood there is no remission" is not acceptable today. The teaching which presents Christ as our substitutionary atonement for sin is outmoded, because, "God...needs no placating, no offering once for all to satisfy Him." They would have us believe that Jesus is not the Saviour of men; that His blood was shed in vain, and His death on Calvary's cross was all a tragic mistake. The words of the song we love so well are not to be believed:

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.*

Clamoring for our attention as we ponder these words of the modern false teacher are the ringing words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 1:7, 8, "...there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

The modern false teacher, in his distorted thinking as the minister of Satan, offers a perverted gospel, a gospel twisted completely out of shape, but calculated to impress modern men by appealing to their fleshly lusts.

In this perverted gospel there is no 'good news' concerning a sin-bearing Saviour; no 'good news' about a "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world," no 'good news' about our sins being borne by a Substitute who was qualified to take our place and become a sacrifice thoroughly satisfactory to a righteous, just, and Holy God. There is no 'good news' about the forgiveness of sin, the cleansing from sin, the deliverance from the power of sin on the basis of work that man could never do, but that has been done in his behalf by a gracious Sav-

iour. There is no 'good news' about redemption, nothing at all about the payment of the penalty for man's sin. No 'good news' about an acceptable offering made "once for all" making it possible for poor, helpless, sinful man to obtain eternal life as a free gift from God on the simple basis of saving faith.

Instead, there is "another gospel, which is not another," in which the truth is twisted and distorted, eliminating the idea of salvation as a gift, repudiating the work of the Saviour on the cross, denying the efficacy of His shed blood and requiring man to earn, to pay for his own salvation...deliberately ignoring and altogether setting aside the truth embodied in such passages as Ephesians 2:8, 9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast," and, Romans 4:5, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." In a deliberate denial of Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost," they offer a gospel based upon man's own righteousness, contrary to the plain statement in Romans 3:10, "there is none righteous, no, not one."

In their message there is nothing about the grace of God, nothing about a gift of salvation, nothing about justification of the ungodly by faith, nothing about a righteousness imputed on the basis of faith.

Denying the doctrine of original sin, ignoring the passage which says, "for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), they tell men that they are not sinners by nature. They insist that God is the Father of all men and that because of His great love, if they will do the best they can and live up to the golden rule, they will be acceptable to God and will thus gain entrance into the kingdom of God.

The total effect of this twisting and perverting of the Gospel of Christ is the subverting of the entire plan of redemption which was provided at great cost for the salvation of men, and turning men in the direction of the broad way which leadeth to destruction. Instead of bringing life, it produces death. Instead of offering salvation, it guarantees damnation. Instead of leading men to Heaven, it leads them to an eternal Hell.

Let me stop right here for a moment to call your attention to

(c.) A Tremendously Important Reminder

There are some other passages of Scripture, some very strong statements concerning these false teachers that we should consider carefully at this point. You know, of course, that these teachers

make a great pretense of their intellectual prowess. They speak of the "intellectual approach" and frown upon, and severely criticize anything of an "emotional" nature. They speak of their superior knowledge, stress out of all proportion the importance of formal education, and boast a great deal about their so-called scholarship.

In the light of these professions, it is interesting to note that the Bible places rather strong emphasis upon statements which completely refute their claims. It is amazing how completely God discredits the so-called intelligence of these false prophets.

In I Timothy 6:3-5, we read, "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words....Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth."

Again, writing to Timothy in the second epistle, chapter 3, verse 8, Paul refers to these people as "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth....so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds."

Jude speaks plainly about them too. In verse 10, he says, "But these speak evil of those things they know not but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves." Here, we are told that when these teachers are confronted with something they do not understand they speak evil of it, or revile it.

Summarizing the teaching of the Bible at this point, we are informed that those who do not teach the truth know (understand) nothing, are men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth. They are characterized as "dotting about questions and strifes of words."

The word for 'dotting' in the original Greek means "to be sick." In other words, such men are described as having a form of mental sickness which causes them to enter into constant controversy about the truth, even though they themselves are bankrupt or utterly poverty-stricken when it comes to the truth. Furthermore, we are told that in spite of their continuous pursuit of knowledge, and the special premium they put on learning, they are "ever learning, but never coming to the knowledge of the truth." Finally, we learn that when these men of "utterly putrid" (lit.) minds are faced with that which they are unable to understand, they simply "speak evil" or revile it. Thus we have an explanation for the persistent ridicule, the intellectual contempt and professed amusement displayed by these teachers when confronted with strong statements of orthodoxy!

Perhaps all of this will be easier to understand when we are reminded of that verse in I Corinthians 2:14, where God reveals a

tremendously significant principle, "But the natural man receiveth [understandeth] not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned [understood]." Compare this verse with Jude 19, where the flat unqualified statement is made of these false teachers, "having not the Spirit."

Surely such teachers are to be pitied rather than respected. Their lot is wretched and miserable indeed.

Let us consider

III. The Effect of Their Ministry

The information in the Word of God is wonderfully complete regarding these false prophets and their ministry in the interests of Satan and Hell. We are told in advance what results their teaching will produce. In this connection it is well to remember that Jesus was referring to these *false teachers* when He said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16).

The first cluster of fruit produced by these false teachers is presented in Matthew 7:22, 23. There Jesus tells us, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

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In Matthew 24:11, 12, Jesus tells us that the result of false teaching as represented in this passage will be twofold: *many* will be deceived, and "the love of *many* will wax cold."

In II Peter 2:2, we are informed that, "many will follow their pernicious [destructive] ways." Four times over we are warned that "*many*" will be involved in the tragic ruin resulting from the position injections of satanic falsehoods!

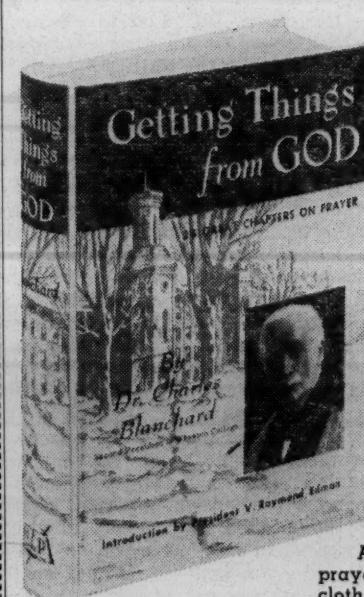
In II Peter 2:2, we also read, "by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of," and in I Timothy 4:1, Paul predicts that "some shall depart from the faith."

Paul is our instructor again in three important passages in which he adds additional evidence of the vicious blight which follows the ministry of these representatives of the infernal regions. He says in Galatians 1:7, they, "trouble you," and in Romans 16:17, they, "cause divisions and offenses," then finally, in Acts 20:30, they, "draw away disciples after them."

There is nothing constructive here. Every reference to the results of false teaching points out its incalculable destructiveness. The fruit is poison!

(Continued on page 10)

What a difference in believing in prayer, and Really Getting Things From God!



"Sure, I believe in prayer," you'd say. "I read my Bible earnestly every day, and pray. I'm honestly trying to be a good Christian."

But if the question persists, "Does God really answer your prayers, so that you can thank Him for the answer to specific requests?" most of us would have to answer sadly, "No. I do not regularly get specific answers to specific prayers. God answers some of my prayers, but I don't know the joy of really expecting, and getting, things from God."

Dr. Charles Blanchard, a saintly and beloved man of God, was a man of deep prayer. He believed that God wanted to answer our prayers, but that our lack of asking kept Him from giving what we wanted! As the second president of Wheaton College, he made hundreds of specific requests of God, concerning the financial needs of the college, its spiritual needs, and the need for buildings and land. He proved God in his own life, then wrote a book showing how we can Scripturally ask, and get, things from God.

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False Prophets . . .

(Continued from page 9)

No doubt you have been wondering, Is there any explanation for such activity on the part of otherwise apparently intelligent men? Where do you suppose we will find the answer to this question?

Again, the Bible tells us

IV. Why Men Will Stoop to This Kind of Ministry

Four different reasons are offered in explanation of this kind of activity.

1. *For reward*—II Peter 2:15 and Jude 11. They "run greedily after the error of Balaam [the hireling prophet] for reward," "and through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you" (II Pet. 2:3). "... supposing that gain is godliness" (I Tim. 6:5).

2. *For advantage*. "... their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" (Jude 16).

3. *Because of a heart trained in greed*. "... an heart they have exercised with covetous practices" (II Pet. 2:14).

4. *Because of ungodly lusts*. They "walk after their own ungodly lusts . . . sensual" (Jude 18, 19).

Does the explanation suffice? Look around you and notice how the false prophets in your community fit perfectly into this picture. Sensual lusts; a heart trained in greed; reward and personal profit; because of advantage! "Servants of corruption" indeed! Selfish, lustful, time-serving, greedy, mercenary: such are the ministers of Satan.

Having considered these men, their methods, message and results as well as their reasons for engaging in this ministry of enslavement of men's souls, I want you to see

V. What God Thinks of These False Teachers

When a fundamental Bible preacher sometimes uses strong, forceful language in speaking of modern false prophets, he is frequently criticised by those whose tender sensibilities are offended by plain speech. If you happen to belong in that category you had better grit your teeth and get a good hold of yourself, because as we consult the Scriptures for an expression of God's attitude toward these minions of darkness, there are some startling, even shocking expressions!

Perhaps the best method to follow would be to start with the very first reference to false teachers in the Gospel of Matthew and then follow through the New Testament from the point. Here is the list, and please remember that it consists of nothing but Scripture quotations:

"ravaging wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

"... grievous wolves . . . sparing not the flock" (Acts 20:29).

"deceitful workers . . . his [Satan's] ministers . . . whose end shall be according to their works" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

"... let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8, 9).

"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:2).

"... men of corrupt minds" (I Tim. 6:5).

"... reprobate concerning the faith" (II Tim. 3:8).

"... whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not" (II Pet. 2:3).

"... presumptuous . . . self-willed . . . natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed . . . shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness . . . Spots they are and blemishes . . . eyes full of adultery, and cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls . . . cursed children . . . wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever . . . servants of corruption . . . it had been better for them not to have known the way or righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (II Pet. 2:10-21).

"... liar . . . antichrist" (I John 2:22).

A Prayer for Patience

(Continued from page 1)

to resign about once a week. So important is patience that it is not to be wondered that Jesus said: "In your patience, ye shall win your souls."

Often the finest natures are sorely tempted to exhibitions of impatience, just as the fairest lakes of Scotland are often swept by unexpected storms. Think of Moses, meekest of men, so losing his patience that he shattered the tables of the law. Think of Simon Peter who allowed himself to get into such a temper that he angrily cut off the ear of one of the high priest's servants. The Great Master reminded him: "Put up again thy sword into its place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Verily, the finest, noblest natures are often tempted to pitiful exhibitions of impatience. Certainly, our text this hour is a suitable and necessary prayer for every one of us. Let us pray it, unceasingly, even that the Lord will ever direct our hearts into the patience of Christ.

Christ, the Perfect Pattern of Patience

The text directs our attention to the one perfect pattern of patience. That pattern is Christ. The patience of Christ, like all of His other virtues, is perfect. We are to

the very elect have been deceived by these devilish "ministers of righteousness" and their so-called scholarship to the point that they have become partakers of their evil deeds.

It is my humble, but unqualified conviction that the true church of Jesus Christ is guilty of grave error and enormous sin if it does not follow the unmistakable teaching of the Word of God and the unflinching examples of Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul, John and Jude in dealing with these perverted preachers of Hell. Although Jesus ate with publicans and sinners, His Word tells us that we are not to have such fellowship with false teachers, "... receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed."

First, a tremendous respect for the Bible which has so adequately foretold and described these false prophets.

Second, a determination to keep ourselves pure and steadfast in the faith.

Third, an attitude of righteous indignation and holy intolerance toward these iniquitous men of corrupt minds and deadly, destructive ministry.

Fourth, a full and determined willingness to obey God's instructions to us concerning them.

What are these instructions? They are seven in number. Let me give them to you just as they are:

"... avoid them" (Rom. 16:17).

"Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (II Cor. 6:14).

"Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord" (II Cor. 6:17).

"... from such withdraw thyself" (I Tim. 6:5).

"... receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 10, 11).

"... ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

False prophets are not imaginary; they are real! Men of God who are deeply concerned about the purity of the Church and the presentation of an uncorrupted Gospel to the world, cannot afford to treat them lightly. To be indifferent to their message, to be unconcerned about their methods, is to sin grievously against God and man. To associate with them in any way; to fellowship with them in any program; to give them the benefit of any support, moral or material; to belong to their churches; to lend them your influence; to give them the slightest indication of recognition, respect or honor; is to ignore, deny and disobey the plain teaching of the Bible and to compromise with the forces of Satan and Hell!

We sometimes hear good Christian people say, "We must not criticise these people; we must pray for them." Frequently, those who have spoken out clearly against false teachers and their entire satanically-inspired program are criticised for their valiant efforts and are condemned for their "lack of love" for these reprobate rascals. Too frequently,

keep on looking unto Him, as our example, as well as our Saviour and Lord. We are to walk in His steps. We are to be imitators of Him.

See Christ's patience in dealing with His own disciples. They were ignorant; they learned His teaching slowly; they were, at times, distressingly selfish, and yet, He was sublimely patient through it all. One of them said unto Him: "Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us," to which He made the revealing reply: "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" On another occasion, two of His disciples selfishly and ambitiously insisted that they be allowed to sit, one on His right hand, and the other on His left hand, in His kingdom. How slow they were to comprehend the spiritual nature of His kingdom; and yet how patient He was with His dull and selfish disciples.

See His patience with the people who pressed upon Him from every quarter for His help. Wherever He went, the multitudes followed Him and found Him. He could not be hid. Toward all who thus sought His help, He was infinitely patient. The most beautiful portrait given of Him in the New Testament is in the five brief words: "He went about doing good." His constant attitude toward the people was that of overflowing helpfulness. His actions ever glorified His words: "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Graciousness, kindness, active helpfulness toward others marked all the earthly steps of Jesus.

His patience toward His foes was still more wonderful. They sought to circumvent His plans and to frustrate His work, whichever way He went, but His patience was undimmed and undiminished through it all. Nor was His patience the patience of weakness. He reminded His opposers that He could call upon His Father and secure more than twelve legions of angels to come to His aid, if He so desired. But that procedure would have been out of harmony with both His spirit and His plans.

Nor was His patience the patience of Stoicism. There was never another so sensitive as He, or who felt so keenly the sins and woes of earth. Nor was His patience the patience of sullenness, like that of some savage who sometimes bears torture in grim silence. Never in all the world, before or since, has any other shown patience so gracious and gentle and enduring. He prayed for His murderers, and gave back gentle answers to most cruel words, and then endured His lonely, cruel cross and died thereon for us all.

Mark also His patience with His work. He saw few visible results to His work, while He was here in the flesh. He was a sower rather than a reaper. Great multitudes followed Him at first, but under His winnowing words, they kept falling away from Him, until one day He put the surprisingly pathetic question to the twelve: "Will ye also go away?" Still, He never faltered but went steadily on and on, unwavering and undiscouraged. He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "He shall not fail, nor be discouraged."

Note again His sublime patience in accepting His Father's will. Listen to His blessed words: "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." And again: "The Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please Him." He accepted His Father's will, even as you and I are to accept it, in Gethsemane, as well as when all life's conditions are cloudless and filled with music. In dark Gethsemane, He prayed: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." That is to be our prayer as well as His. Have we learned the deep secret of abiding, satisfying peace? Where is it to be found? It is found in the unreserved acceptance of God's will. Why should we be afraid to

accept His will for our lives? His will is always right, and always best, and always safe. To go against His will is to invite certain disaster for ourselves. Van Dyke voiced this great truth for us, in his poem. Let us note well its message:

With eager heart and will on fire,
I sought to win my great desire:
Peace shall be mine, I said, but
life

Grew bitter in the endless strife.

My soul was weary and my pride
Was wounded deep, to heaven I
cried,
'God, give me peace or I must
die'

The dumb stars glittered no reply.

Broken at last, I bowed my head,
Forgetting all myself, and said,
'Whatever comes, God's will be
done,'

And in that moment peace was
won.

But Christ Was Properly Impatient of Evil

But let us faithfully note that there was one thing of which Jesus was sublimely impatient. He was impatient of evil, of unrighteousness, of sin. "To this end was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." Go read Christ's sharp denunciation of the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and mark His sublime impatience toward their grievous sins. It is the duty of nobody to be patient when evil is to be checked and when wrong is to be righted. It is the duty of no man to be a martyr when he ought to be a soldier. All our liberties in America were won by heroic impatience against tyranny. Where would religion have been in Scotland, if Knox had trifled? What would have become of the Christian faith, in Germany and in Europe, but for Martin Luther? Where would the cause of missions have gone, but for William Carey? What would have become of civilization in recent years, if autocracy had not been summoned to answer at the bar of public opinion throughout the earth?

Both in church and in state, in the kingdom and in the commonwealth, we are continually summoned by the most commanding motives of life, to be ever aggressively impatient against wrong ideals and standards, and for the right, throughout the social order, everywhere. Morning, noon and night our prayer is to be: "The Lord direct our hearts into the patience of Christ."

Oh How Patience Is Needed in Human Relationships!

All the relations of life continually call for this virtue of patience. We need patience with and for ourselves. Jesus reminds us: "In your patience, ye shall win your souls." The earthly life is a constant battle. Sore temptations confront us, whichever way we turn. These temptations come to us, as they did to Jesus in the wilderness—in every adroit and specious form. We are to repel them as Jesus repelled them. It is never right to do wrong. To be misled by the subtle doctrine, that "the end justifies the means," is to be led into inevitable defeat and distress. The one canon of conduct from which we are never to swerve is this: "What is right?" We are to follow the behest of right, if the heavens fall. Thus does the poet put it:

If thou canst plan a noble deed,
And never flag till it succeed,
Though in the strife thy heart
must bleed;
Whatever obstacles control,
Thine hour will come, go on, true
soul,
Thou'll win the prize, thou'll reach
the goal.

Not only do we need patience with ourselves, but we need it poignantly in all the relations of life. We need it in our constant contacts with our fellow humanity. It is needed every day and hour, in the most important circle of all—the home. Everyone should continually live at the highest and best in home life. To do so, a large measure of patience will be indispensably necessary. Parents need this grace in abundant measure, as they deal with their eager, growing children. And, surely, the children need it every hour, or they will fall

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— THE END —

"Almost Persuaded"

(Continued from page 1)

the familiar words of our King James Version of the Bible, "almost persuaded" to be a Christian. Paul was right. Agrippa did know about the life and death of Christ and surely of His reported resurrection from the dead. Paul was right. Agrippa did believe the prophets, did know that the Bible was the inspired Word of God, and did know that men must come before God in judgment. Agrippa had found himself more like a prisoner before the bar than the Apostle Paul who stood before him in chains! Agrippa was almost persuaded to be a Christian. But not quite! No, there were too many things to give up. Some day no doubt he would be a Christian, but it would take more words than these to get him decided. He was not ready yet to be a Christian, but he hoped to be some day.

Doubtless there are multiplied thousands like Agrippa, who are almost persuaded to be Christians. They intend some day to be saved. They are conscious that they need a Saviour. They think it would be horrible to die unconverted and go to Hell forever. But they do not intend to do that. Sometime when it is convenient, sometime when they are more interested in the matter, they will be saved, they think. Sometime when it will not mean giving up so much youthful fun, or some shady business practice, or a life of sin, they hope to be saved. They are almost persuaded to be saved, but not quite.

II. "Almost Persuaded" Reveals a Wicked, Rebellious Heart!

Paul had said, "King Agrippa,

believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest." Then if Agrippa believed the prophets, believed Isaiah's great prophecy of the coming virgin-born Son, believed the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah which foretold the Saviour's atoning death, believed the twenty-second Psalm which pictured His crucifixion—if Agrippa believed these things, then why would he not accept the Saviour? He was almost persuaded—now why not altogether?

And Agrippa had known all about the life of Christ: His wonderful miracles, His accusation by the Jews, His crucifixion, His resurrection. Paul told the whole story in Acts, chapter 26: "That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles!" (vs. 23). And when Agrippa had accused Paul of being mad, beside himself with learning, Paul had answered him boldly, "For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner" (vs. 26). You see, Agrippa knew the Gospel, knew the Old Testament, knew that Christ had fulfilled the prophecies, knew that He came to save sinners. Yes, Agrippa knew enough to be saved. Agrippa should have been altogether persuaded, should have been already a Christian. Instead, he was "almost persuaded." Now what was wrong with Agrippa that he was not altogether persuaded?

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A Prayer for Patience

(Continued from page 10)

short of their duties toward their parents and toward everybody else. Likewise, this grace of patience, wise and worthy patience, is immeasurably important between husbands and wives. A husband and wife were impatient, each toward the other, ere he left for his office, one early morning. Sharp words were exchanged between them, and in that unhappy temper, they went their separate ways for the day. Alas! A fatal accident came to him during the day and his lifeless body was brought back in the evening to the unhappy home of the morning. Another couple went their separate ways in the morning, each to their waiting tasks of the day, but not until each one had told the other again, the old, old story of ever-growing confidence and love. The second husband's lifeless body was also brought back home in the evening, but the wife's memories of their last conversation and parting, in the morning, will make music in her heart forever. Oh, what need for patience, thoughtful and unceasing patience, in every home in the world, and to the end of day!

Then, too, a large measure of patience is constantly needed in all our contacts with our fellow humanity. Not all persons are reasonable and congenial. Some are very exacting and unreasonable. Even the mighty Paul prayed to be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men. Unless we have a right measure and a proper use of patience we shall sorely misunderstand and misjudge our fellow humanity. If we knew all the background in other people's lives, our judgment of them would be different, our attitude toward them would be changed.

Let me illustrate with a frequently recited story, in connection with the widely famed evangelist, Sam Jones. The last time that I heard him speak, he was pleading, even as I have been pleading this hour, that we all make much of the grace of patience in our relations toward all mankind. To give emphasis to his contention, he told of a day's travel, some months before, through a desert country, one sultry summer day. The train windows could not be kept up, because of the blinding dust, nor could they be kept down, because of the oppressive heat. The day's travel was exceedingly trying for all the passengers. When the nightfall came, the desert had

been crossed, and a sleeping car was added to the train. The tired passengers hastened to find rest and sleep after their unusually trying day. At one end of the Pullman car, a man was seen with a tiny baby in his arms, which baby he was vainly trying to quiet. The more he strove to quiet the fretting child, the louder became its cries. Tired men turned uneasily in their berths. Presently, a big brawny fellow impatiently called to the man who was vainly trying to quiet the crying child: "Why don't you take that baby to its mother?" There was a moment's pause, and then came back the reply: "The baby's mother is in her casket in the baggage car ahead!" Again, there was an awful silence for a moment, and then the man who asked the cruel question, was out of his berth, dressed himself rapidly, and hastened to the man with the motherless child, to make his worthiest apology for his thoughtless question. The father of the child was entreated to get some sleep, while the thoughtless questioner gave himself for hours to the task of quieting and caring for the little one. How easy it is to misunderstand and to misjudge our frail, fellow humanity! More and more, let us magnify a wise and worthy patience, in all our contacts with them.

We Need Patience With God

Most of all, we need patience with God. Let us say it very humbly and reverently—we need patience with God. His providential dealings with us are such as must often try our hearts to the depths. Sometimes our most cherished plans are broken into shreds. Sometimes we are turned utterly away from the things upon which we have set our hearts. Paul essayed to go into Bithynia, but the Holy Spirit would not suffer him to do so. Instead, Paul was directed to Europe, and because he went to Europe, blessings immeasurably vast have come to the world. God's plan for Paul's life was far larger and better than Paul's plan for himself. God's plan for us is always best for us, whatever His plan may be, and wherever it may lead. Ever and forever, we are to say with Job: "Let come on me what will, though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

As we travel on let us ever remember that Christ's Gospel is the

(Continued top next column)

supreme friend of patience, in two ways. First, because love is the supreme thing in life. "Love never faileth." What makes a mother patient with her duties in the home, exacting and endless? It is love. What was it that enabled Jacob to toil for seven arduous years, and then for another seven years? It was his love for Rachel. What is the very heart of the glorious Gospel of Christ? Paul states it for us: "The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Again, Christ's Gospel is the supreme friend of patience, because of the immortal hope that it ever holds up before us. The noble old Hebrews called often to mind the saying: "Let Jerusalem come into your mind." Jerusalem was the glorious Hebrew city of old. There they had their noble Temple, with all its traditions and historic glory. No matter, therefore, how far the ancient Hebrew wandered from the ancient city, the old saying, "Let Jerusalem come into your mind," would ever thrill the Hebrew heart. Even so, as we journey on, we are often to let the Immortal Hope and the Eternal Home come into our minds, and thus shall we be the better fortified for the battles and burdens of the earthly journey. "Let not your heart be

troubled—in my Father's house are many mansions—I go to prepare a place for you—and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

In his very human poem, *A Life Lesson*, James Whitcomb Riley voices our undying hope:

There! little girl; don't cry!
They have broken your doll, I
know,
And your tea-set blue, and your
playhouse too,

Are things of the long ago;
But childish troubles will soon
pass by—
There! little girl; don't cry!

There! little girl; don't cry!
They have broken your slate, I
know;

And the wild, glad ways of your
schoolgirl days,
Are things of the long ago;
But life and love will soon come
by,

There! little girl; don't cry!

There! little girl; don't cry!
They have broken your heart, I
know;
And the rainbow gleams of your
youthful dreams,
Are things of the long ago;
But heaven holds all for which you
sigh,—

There! little girl; don't cry!

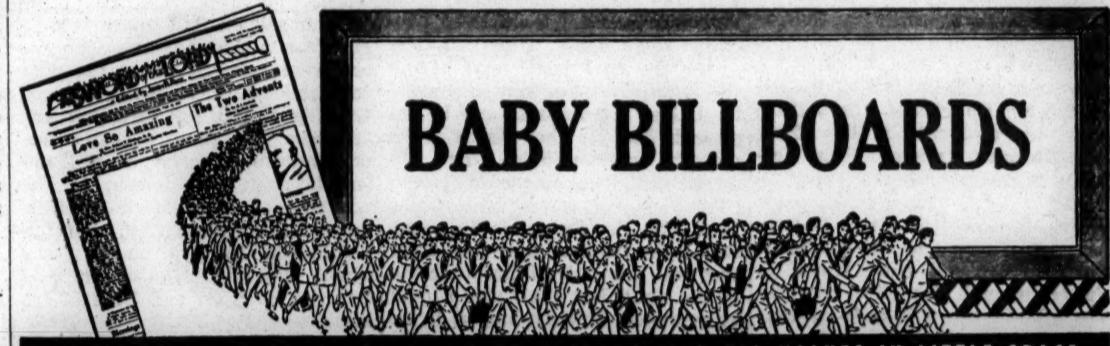
That one sentence, "But heaven holds all for which you sigh," forecasts the whole vast story of the glorious life and land beyond, for the true friends and followers of Christ.

We'll gather broken threads again,
And finish what we here began;
Heaven will life's mysteries ex-
plain—
And then, ah, then we'll under-
stand.

What then is the way of wisdom
for us all? It is that we shall take
two worlds into account. "Godli-
ness is profitable unto all things,
having the promise of the world
which now is, and of that which is
to come." We are citizens of two
worlds—let us wisely live for both.
Let us trustfully link our lives
with Christ, faithfully following
wherever He leads, and then shall
all be well with us, both here and
hereafter.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in
mine,
Nor ever murmur, nor repine,
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God who leadeth
me.

(From SERMONS FROM PAUL—published by Eerdmans, used by permission.)



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News Notes

Robert J. Hughes of Buffalo, New York, music editor of Inspiration, Inc. music publishers of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been named executive director of the Winona Lake Christian Assembly.

Hughes, 38, succeeds the late Arthur W. McKee, who died in June, 1953. Since his death, the assembly has been directed by Miss Louise H. Alfors.

He will move to Winona Lake with his wife, Blanche, and their three children, Rita, 14, Bobby, 11, and Betty Ann, 9.

The appointment was made at the annual business meeting of the 25-man Assembly board, of which R. G. Le Tourneau of Longview, Texas is the chairman.

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News Notes

(Continued from page 11)

F. Knowland (R.-Calif.) sat in a pew with President and Mrs. Rhee during the service which also was attended by Gen. James A. Van Fleet, former Eighth Army commander in Korea.

Missouri Synod Film Wins TV Poll Rating

CINCINNATI—A Lutheran television film, "This Is The Life," has been voted best of its category in a nationwide poll of stations, sponsors, advertising agencies and film producers and distributors in the TV field although it was not included on the ballot.

The movie was omitted from the ballot listing because it is not handled by any of the regular commercial distributors. Produced by Family Films TV, Inc. of Hollywood, for Lutheran Television productions of St. Louis, Mo., an agency of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is being shown on 230 television stations across the country.

Results of the poll were announced in *The Billboard*, entertainment industry weekly published here, which conducted the survey—the Second Annual TV Film Program and Talent Awards Poll.

Enough participants in the industry-wide poll wrote in the name of "This Is The Life" to give it a total score of 233 points, compared to 96 for its closest competitor, and thus designate it the "Best Non-Network Religious Film Service."

Mrs. L. O. Engelman of Tucson, Ariz., missionary to the Mexicans for 29 years and close friend to the editor and Mrs. Rice, recently was killed when a 79-mile-an-hour wind overturned her car as she was going to prayer meeting. Four people made professions of faith at her funeral.

Billy Graham Gives President First-Hand Report

Evangelist Billy Graham gave President Eisenhower a first-hand report of his five-month preaching mission in Great Britain and Western Europe.

Dr. Graham said after emerging from the White House that he told the President there is a religious revival occurring in Europe which will "have tremendous impact on social, political and moral life in Europe."

This, in turn, will affect international relations, he predicted.

Graham to Publish Comic Books

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has begun publication of a series of Bible Story comic books. First to be published are "Daniel in the Lions' Den," "David and Goliath" and "Naaman the Leper." Newsstands will be offering the books for sale at 10c a copy soon.

Professing Professor

Dr. Carl Armerding, beloved Wheaton College professor of Bible and Theology, will desert the ivied halls next October to go back to his first love—missions.

The professor has been named president of the Central American Mission, succeeding Dr. Karl D. Hummel. Dr. Armerding has served as a missionary in Spanish Honduras and the British West Indies, as well as among the New Mexico Indians.

Emotional Preaching

"Lack of emotionalism in modern preaching may explain why many people go to the movies seeking what they miss in church," a Missouri Synod pastor recently said. He pointed out that "Emotion has been so completely eliminated from most of our present-day worship that the people are becoming emotionally starved. In the theater it is dark, and there one can weep crocodile tears over a fictitious experience without anyone noticing. Sometimes we forget that Christianity is more than reason and intellect. It is fundamentally a great emotion, a great love for the Saviour, and it will be all for the good if we demonstrate that love by preaching straight from the heart."

(Continued next column)

"Almost Persuaded"

(Continued from page 11)

The trouble lay in Agrippa's wicked heart. He was not yet willing to repent of his sins. He was not willing to surrender his own way. He was not willing to submit to Jesus Christ. With a stubbornness that is in every Christ-rejecting sinner's heart, Agrippa postponed the settlement of this question.

And that leads me to say that always, without any exception, those who are almost persuaded, but not entirely, are delayed only by their own wicked hearts! Only the sinful rebellion of those who are not willing to do right about Christ, not willing to submit to His will, not willing to have Him Lord of their lives, not willing to penitently forsake their sins—only such sin in the hearts of unbelievers keeps them from being saved when they are almost persuaded.

Men make all kinds of excuses as to why they are not saved. But when men have gone into this matter with any care at all, there remains only one reason why they are not fully persuaded to accept Christ and be Christians. And that one reason is their own wicked hearts' rebellion! Jesus said in John 3:19-21: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Men who do not come to Jesus stay away because they love their sins and are not willing to come to the light, lest their sins should be reproved. If they longed to do right, they would instantly run to Jesus, surrender to Him, trust Him and be saved.

Any lost man who reads this, any unsaved woman, I can tell you exactly what is wrong with your heart. You do not want to do the one main thing you know is right. You are not willing to come to Jesus, the Light, because you love your sins. If you wanted to do right, if your heart were hungry for truth and goodness, then the very first time you ever heard that Jesus died for you, the first time you ever knew that He offered you salvation and was willing to forgive your black sins and save your poor, doomed soul, you would have run to Him with all your heart to be saved at once! After all, the only reason people stay away from Christ is that they do not want Him. They want their sins!

Men make all kinds of excuses, I say, as to why they are not saved. "I am afraid I can't live right," some man says. But what he really means, if he were honest in stating it, is, "I don't want to give up my sins; and I'm afraid people would expect me to give them up if I were saved. Or the Lord would certainly expect me to give them up; and I am not willing to do it." Any man could live a better life if he were saved and trying, than he could if he were lost and not trying. But that is not the real reason people are not saved.

Why is it that you are not a

The Reverend Nye J. Langmade, co-founder and for sixteen years President of the Midwest Bible and Missionary Institute has resigned to devote his full time as Executive Secretary of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, it was announced by the school office in St. Louis.

Rev. Dr. F. William May, co-founder, Dean of the Institute, has been elected President. Rev. Roger J. Andrus, becomes Executive Vice-President and Treasurer.

Mr. Everett S. Graffam, Administrative Assistant to the President of the Providence-Barrington Bible College of Rhode Island, has resigned to accept the appointment as President of Buffalo Bible Institute, Buffalo, New York, as of September 11, 1954. He is also a member of the Word of Life Council, a director of the G. W. Dahl Corporation, and the Managing Director of Providence Summer Conference.

was silly because it goes contrary to all human experience along this line. Multitudes of people have been convicted, have trembled over their sins, have made the holy resolve that someday they would seek the Lord, and yet they have died unconverted, have died lost, condemned, and have gone to Hell!

When was Agrippa ever converted? He was convicted. He was "almost persuaded"; but as far as we know, he was never saved.

I imagine that if the Lord should allow me to go to Hell to interview those who had a chance to be saved, I might there find King Agrippa. Well, he would have no crown, no robe, and no titles. Now he would be only a poor, doomed soul. I imagine that I might say to him in Hell, "Agrippa, what a shock to see you here in Hell!"

And Agrippa might answer, "Yes, just think! I heard Paul the apostle preach! He stood before me with the chains rattling on his wrists as he motioned. His voice trembled with concern as he spoke to me! I remember how his eyes burned and how he forgot all about his chains, all about his own danger, and pleaded with me to be saved. Oh, just think! I heard Paul the apostle preach and still I was never saved, and I came to Hell!"

I imagine that I would meet in Hell Felix, a contemporary of King Agrippa. You remember that Paul stood before Felix, as the scene is described in the twenty-fourth chapter of Acts. Acts 24:24-25 tells us that Felix "sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

Some people think that Jews are unconverted because they are Jews. But that is not primarily the reason. A Jew is unsaved simply because he is a human being with a natural rebellion, with a sinful heart of a human being. A Jew unconverted and a Gentile unconverted are unconverted for the same reason. They have not been willing to bow the knee to Jesus Christ and trust Him for salvation. It is true that a Jew may have to overcome more prejudice, may have to endure more persecution in order to be a Christian. But any Jew who is concerned about the matter would turn to Christ and be saved, if he were willing to do what the Lord Jesus requires. Only sin in the heart keeps people almost persuaded, but still lost.

I hope that you who read this will remember that the one unsettled question that keeps you from Christ is the question of your sinful rebellion. If you were willing to honestly turn your heart from your sin and surrender to Jesus and trust Him, you would be instantly saved. You would not be "almost persuaded," but altogether persuaded and surrendered and decided to be a Christian.

How wicked then it is to remain undecided! How guilty before God you stand if you are almost persuaded but still unsaved!

III. "Almost Persuaded" Is Still Altogether Lost

It is strange how men sometimes comfort themselves and try to reassure themselves because they have had some religious convictions. When I urge a man to be saved, often he will say, "Yes, I have thought a lot about this, and I am going to be saved sometime. You need not worry about me, because I am sure I am going to be saved before it is too late." People feel that the very fact that they have been convicted, the fact that they have taken time to think about this matter, assures them of salvation at some future time. Alas! that is not true. Those who are almost persuaded are still altogether lost.

I once heard a silly statement made by a preacher that all who were ever truly convicted would surely be saved, and that those who were once moved by the Spirit of God would never get away from it until they were convicted. I say that was a silly statement. It was a silly statement because it was not backed up by a single verse of Scripture. It

out to meet God. He was "almost persuaded," and yet lost forever.

Some of you who hear me today are still undecided. You are still "almost persuaded," but lost. Listen to the words of that tender song written by P. P. Bliss:

"Almost persuaded," now to believe;
"Almost persuaded," Christ to receive;
Seems now some soul to say,
"Go, Spirit, go Thy way,
Some more convenient day on
Thee I'll call."

"Almost persuaded," come, come today;
"Almost persuaded," turn not away;
Jesus invites you here, angels are
ringing near,
Prayers rise from hearts so dear,
O wand'r'er, come.

"Almost persuaded," harvest is past!
"Almost persuaded," doom comes at last!
"Almost" cannot avail; "Almost" is but to fail!
Sad, sad, that bitter wail,
"Almost," but lost.

Are you going to go to Hell, though you have been convicted by the Spirit of God? Are you still going away from Christ, when you know you ought to be saved?

With solemn warning I urge you that if you ever intend to be saved, you must be saved now. There is no promise for the future. Almost saved is still altogether lost. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," says the Scripture (II Cor. 6:2). And again the Scripture says, "Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts" (Heb. 3:7-8). The Spirit of God that makes you almost persuaded, this same Spirit of God that shows you the way of salvation and is ready to change your heart and make you a Christian today, warns you solemnly that today is the day of salvation. If you ever intend to be saved, you should be saved now.

Give up, give up that wicked rebellion in your heart! Give up that sin that would damn your soul, keeping you forever away from Christ! This wicked delay, turn from it at once. If you will turn to Jesus Christ and trust Him, depending on Him, surrendering to Him, He will save you today. He loves you. He has already paid for all your sins. Only an honest heart's surrender, a penitent dependence on Him remains to make you God's child. Will you turn to Heaven?

Please say yes to God today and write and tell me so. You who are almost persuaded, I beg you, become altogether persuaded this very day. And if you will say yes to God in your heart, then sign the statement below, and have it settled forever between you and God. Then copy the statement, or write me in your own words, and tell me that you have today turned to Jesus Christ and trusted Him as your own Saviour. How happy I will be! And I will send you a letter of counsel and encouragement.

Evangelist John R. Rice,
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your sermon on "Almost Persuaded." I confess that I have been just "almost persuaded" to be saved. But today, this moment, I will be altogether persuaded. Here and now I decide to put my trust in Jesus. This moment I depend upon Him to forgive me, I repent of my sins, I give up to Jesus Christ. If He wants me, He can have me right now. I accept Him as my Saviour, and by His grace I set out to live for Him the rest of my days.

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____

(From the clothbound book, *A KNOW-SO SALVATION*, 187 pages, \$2, at your book dealers, or add 15 cents postage to order from the *Sword of the Lord*, Wheaton, Illinois.)

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